The Nation

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The Week

The first steps towards calling the third Hague Peace Conference have attracted surprisingly little attention. The meeting the other day, at which were present Andrew D. White and Admiral Mahan, delegates to the first Conference in 1899, Charles H. Butler, delegate to the second Conference in 1907, and Judge George Gray and Oscar S. Straus, members of the permanent peace tribunal, is to be followed by a second meeting, at which a national committee will be appointed. The hope of those behind the movement is to prompt the State Department to send notes to the nations signatory to the Hague Convention, reminding them of the recommendation of the Conference of 1907 that its successor should meet in 1915, and seeking an agreement to a meeting next year. It seems generally agreed that the initiative will lie with the United States. The action already taken certainly cannot be criticised as premature. The last Conference urged that an international committee should be appointed two years in advance of 1915. This was for the preparation of a programme; but the committee has not been appointed.

Mr. Taft has admirably summed up the anomalous position of aliens in this country under a Federal government that confers rights without being able to enforce them. Twenty years ago the situation presented itself acutely to Mr. Blaine when the State of Louisiana would not take steps for the punishment of a mob guilty of murdering Italians, and the Federal Government stood helplessly by. Mr. Taft's fears of what an outbreak of mob violence directed against Japanese residents on the Pacific Coast would mean are justified. The difficulties with Japan over California's restrictive land laws are vexatious enough, but the patient attitude of the Japanese Government has shown that the two nations are in no danger of going to war over the matter. It is the specific instance of mob outrage, for which no redress is offered, that stirs a people to war fury; and our national interests demand that if in some such untoward event a State court and jury refuse to punish mob violence, the Federal Government shall see to it that justice is done. Mr. Taft makes an excellent point when he shows that, while Federal authority is constantly extended into spheres that earlier generations never contemplated, the essential authority of the Federal Government in its own natural sphere of foreign relations is virtually frustrated.

The failure of the Shackleford good-roads bill to procure a rule permitting consideration of it as a "rider" on the Post Office Appropriation bill checks a measure only less objectionable than the Moon attack on the civil service, also defeated. Without a studied plan of expenditure, it would have appropriated $24,987,500 during the coming year to State road construction, and made it a national policy to subsidize post-road improvement. It would have done this without waiting for the report of ex-Senator Bourne's commission of inquiry, created a year ago. Finally, by either of its two hazy schemes, it would have offered opportunity to the spoilsman. If Federal aid to road-building is ever to come, it should only be after mature consideration. Unofficially, ex-Senator Bourne has computed that road-construction will require the expenditure of a billion dollars in the next half-century. Plainly, a beginning should not be made by a skulking amendment to an appropriation bill.

Secretary of Labor Wilson is the latest inventor on the market with an immigration test. The invention of immigration tests has become one of the most popular indoor games in Washington and its environs. Every other man you meet has a little formula up his sleeve by which you can exclude the kind of alien you wish to exclude and admit just the kind you wish to admit. As a result of the new craze for immigration tests, the sciences are booming in Washington. Geography is written anew by Congressmen who are reconstructing the boundaries of Asia. And astonishing contributions to anthropology are made by representatives of the American Federation of Labor, whose scent for racial distinctions is nothing short of marvellous. New principles of economics are embodied in bills providing for an international sliding wage-scale test. Now comes Secretary Wilson with the simplest of all tests, a weighing machine, a tape measure, and a dead-line fixed at thirty-five years.

A Wisconsin Circuit Court has declared unconstitutional the recently enacted law making a physician's certificate a prerequisite to a license to marry. This, of course, is not final, and the conclusion of the highest court in the State on the subject will be awaited with interest. The whole matter is of interest and importance in more than one aspect. The law itself, quite apart from any question of constitutionality, appears to have been a hasty piece of work, considering the profound importance of the subject it deals with. If we are to have regulations of this character, it should be only after the most careful consideration, both of their proper scope and limitations, and of the mechanism of their execution. If reports from Wisconsin are to be trusted, the actual operation of this law has been anything but satisfactory. And the experience is interesting, too, from the standpoint of the merits and defects of our Federal system—of the division between State and national jurisdictions. Under that system, it is possible to experiment with innovations like this without producing a country-wide disturbance, and without either arousing those antagonisms or encountering those difficulties which would attend an attempt to force them upon the acceptance of all the extremely diverse populations of the various States. But beyond both these aspects of the matter lies one that is of far more fundamental import than either—the question of the limits which it is intrinsically desirable to set upon the exercise of governmental control over marriage selection.

Wisconsin's workmen's compensation act of 1911 was held "the greatest piece of legislation yet put forth in the State." It followed two years' legislative inves-

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tigation and was the last of many tentative drafts submitted to general criticism. But it was improved by amendment last summer, and the chairman of the State Industrial Commission now reports it working better than ever. The act is optional, but 88 per cent. of the employers have accepted it, rather than take their chances under the common law. The estimate is that 6,636 cases were settled during 1913, at an average cost of $62.89 each, or $417,374 as the total. Adding medical charges, "we have $626,061 as the probable cost of compensation for 88 per cent. of the industrial accidents of Wisconsin in one year." "The amount paid injured workmen is more than three times what they received under the old law." Yet cost to capital is the same, for through litigation "the injured workmen did not receive 25 per cent. of the sum paid by employers." Old-line insurance rates have been twice reduced during the year.

Now the United Mine Workers' convention has attempted to boycott Indianapolis by removing the meeting to another city, on account of the repression of disorder during the recent strike there. Indianapolis is a hopeless city, anyhow, as was shown by her connection with the capture of men concerned in the conspiracy to blow up bridges and other works constructed by non-union labor. The least that the United Mine Workers can do is to heed the advice of a speaker who said last week: "Men, don't spend any more than you absolutely have to in this city." If they are of the right stuff, they will eat only one meal a day in the depraved city, and sleep in the parks. But boycotting must not stop here. How many cities are there in this misnamed land of the free in which have sat courts that have granted injunctions, Governors that have called out the militia to keep order, regardless of who might be making the disturbance, juries that have condemned men for warring upon their fellow-men? Every one of these cities should be put under the ban. And it should be a thoroughgoing action. No product of such cities should be bought, no railway trip taken that involved going through one of them. All that is required is a little of the spirit of the man who got even with his face by biting off his nose.

To deal with the flood problem was the first task of the Ohio Legislature last week. The measure, prepared after general agreement between engineers, lawyers, and the legislative reference bureau, is interesting from several points of view. Partial application of the local-option principle is permitted. The "conservancy act" rests primarily on the organization of districts, each under its board of directors; and no district may be established except on petition of a specified number of freeholders. But as only ten months ago Ohio was suffering from a flood that cost scores of lives and $200,000,000 in property, unanimity of action is almost certain. Once established, the governing body has large powers: it may condemn lands, issue bonds, and exercise police powers, subject, of course, to court review. It is to regulate, widen, and deepen stream channels, reclaim wet and overflowed land wherever possible, and improve drainage. The work, by State direction, will be pushed first where the peril is greatest, and "extended to all sections where potential flood dangers exist." The reclamation of waste lands and conservation of water power are expected to be incidental but substantial benefits.

The magnitude of Los Angeles' work in bringing most of the Owens River 250 miles over the lower Sierra Nevadas and the Mojave desert has been duly recognized in the illustrated press. It is one of the enterprises vaguely called "second only to the building of the Panama Canal." The disinterestedness and courage that went into it might well rebuke San Francisco. But it is chiefly notable in justifying the decision of the city to go into business for itself rather than submit to what it regarded as the extortion of contractors. When the bids were opened eight years ago for the first engineering division, twenty-three miles, the lowest proposal was $500,000 in excess of the chief engineer's estimates. His prompt request to undertake the job with city labor was granted, and the division completed at a figure $700,000 below the lowest bid. Later, as a means of comparison, one section of twelve miles, 3 per cent. of the whole, was let. Basing the total cost on this contract, the city would have had to pay $40,000,000 instead of $23,000,000 for the aqueduct. Whether this project could have been carried out so successfully in any community headed by a corrupt Government is a question that will promptly occur to readers of the businesslike summary in the *National Municipal Review*.

Misery loves company, but not such company as Senator Bristow is having in his campaign for reëlection. If things were only as they were in the prehistoric year 1909, when Bristow was first elected! But since then has come the deluge, and in Kansas it is very hard to know which is the true Ark. Bristow thought about it a good while, and finally made up his mind to go into the Republican boat. He would have been taken into the Progressive ark for the asking, but he concluded that enough of his friends would follow him into the older boat to make it preferable. Still his friends hesitated. Now a new element is injected into the situation by the announcement of ex-Senator Curtis that he, too, proposes to return to Washington in the Republican craft. The seriousness of this announcement lies in the fact that Curtis has submitted his popularity to a severe test since the Chicago Convention by running against the redoubtable Stubbs for the nomination in 1912, and beating him on the popular vote, losing only by failing to carry a majority of the legislative districts. Can Bristow hope to win against a man who did that? To add to his troubles, William Allen White, who might have been his ardent supporter if he had selected the Progressive ark, has coined an epigram that has been caught up all over Kansas. "Bristow is guilty of a political felony," it runs. Shunned by the Progressives, suspected by the Republicans, how he must long for the good old times when all that one had to do was to expatiate upon the utter inability of the Democrats to manage the affairs of a great government!

Why are Americans ceasing to read good literature? It is the fault, of course, of the tango. Beneficial as the new dance may be in certain respects, its most ardent advocates do not claim for it that it induces a longing for Shakespeare or even Alfred Noyes. But the tango does not stand alone in this respect. The automobile must bear part

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of the blame. We are the surer of the soundness of this contention when we recall that some years ago one of the greatest hindrances to the spread of good literature was the bicycle. What it was before that is less clear, although we imagine that the record would show that in the thirties good literature was neglected because of the influence of the railway, just as still earlier the invention of the steamboat caused people to lose interest in worth-while books. It is thus the unfortunate truth that in every age of the republic there has been something which has made us cease to care for good literature. Every generation has been devoted to books of the highest value, but every succeeding generation has ceased to care for them. Some day, perhaps, we shall have exhausted every other form of activity, and then our native love of good literature will no longer be denied.

In the midst of the various controversies over Panama, it is a comfort to come across one point that is absolutely free from the possibility of dispute. In his address to the American Manufacturers' Export Association last week, Prof. Hiram Bingham, of Yale, drew attention to the fact that the opening of the canal would not bring the east coast of South America a mile nearer than it was before. Everybody knows this, to be sure, but not everybody bears it in mind; and, moreover, when we say "everybody" we are perhaps too inclusive, in view of the kind of letter-addressing cited by Charles M. Pepper, formerly adviser to the State Department, as being of frequent occurrence in American business houses. The man who thinks Buenos Ayres is in Chili probably thinks that since the canal is a short-cut to South America, it is a good-enough short-cut for him to any part of South America. The western part, to which the distance by sea will be shortened, is, as Professor Bingham said, only about one-fifth of the whole. But here we at once get into complexities again. For the economic importance of access to a region is not to be measured by its area, and it is the vast mineral possibilities of the western regions of South America that are attracting greatest interest.

Just seventy-five years after the founding of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Society in England, that body undertakes international expansion. Lords Curzon, Cromer, and Bryce are urging the establishment of an American branch. An affiliated society has been organized in South Africa. The opening of a branch in Germany within the month has attracted no little public attention. In Italy, the Society has helped rouse the Government to protest to Portugal against the slavery in San Thomé and Principe. The Society was established in 1838 as the result of a Government inquiry under Buxton, co-worker with Wilberforce and Macaulay, into the treatment of the indigenous population of the colonies. With the growth of colonizing activity in other nations, the time was ripe for extension of the Society's influence. Certain recent and widely scattered abuses have roused the feelings of men interested in backward races, and given the Society a new claim to recognition.

The Reichstag has adjourned after giving expression to its bitter discontent with militarism in something more than words. The introduction of bills prohibiting the army from making itself a self-constituted authority for the maintenance of public order shows how deep popular resentment runs over the Zabern affair. The Government, as usual, has carried things with a high hand. Not content with the acquittal of Col. von Reuter, the Kaiser has seen fit to turn his guns against the people of Zabern. The honors of the game rest with the militarists. The incident may seem another in the long chain of humiliations to which the representatives of the people have had to submit. But though Chancellors and War Ministers may continue to lecture the members of the Reichstag like so many schoolboys, the spirit of popular resentment apparently increases. The very frequency with which the Government is called upon to scold the Reichstag argues an unsatisfactory state of affairs. The effect of such untoward incidents is cumulative. Another Zabern affair may show that even the traditional patience of the German people has its limits.

Observers of Denmark's access of defensive zeal last spring must have felt that patriotism is less a mountain maid than the goddess of small countries in general. That nation has now reached the conclusion that peace has its menaces no less than war. In the best parts, Berlin and Hamburg bankers have built so many villas that the German summer population threatens to equal the indigenous. Hotels and steamboat lines belong to the Germans; walls and signboards are covered with German inscriptions; in certain watering-places, like Sandkaas, all the bathers are foreigners. The finest portion of Bornholm has been bought by a Hamburg financier, who is promoting there a German city, which he has already called "Neu Berlin." Similarly, the most scenic parts of Möen have passed into the hands of a German company, which proposes to construct a group of great hotels. The Governors of these islands, the Copenhagen press, and the democratic leaders have raised the alarm. A bill has been introduced into Parliament to expend a half-million crowns in repurchasing the site of New Berlin; and without awaiting the vote, individuals are circulating a public subscription list, which has produced 115,000 crowns. It might seem that this heated sentiment against the German economic invasion would of itself operate to lessen or stop sales.

It is natural that in Spain, more than in any other country, the devastating struggle in Mexico should be regarded with sorrow and apprehension. But the appeal for reconciliation addressed to Huerta and Carranza by Spain's leading statesmen and men of letters is a cry for peace when there is no peace. Precisely because the war has been fought so long and so stubbornly the time has passed for a temporary truce. The Mexican forces now at war cannot be harmonized in a cheery get-together spirit. One need not be a blind partisan of the Constitutionalist cause to perceive that if Mexico is to have a stable government, that government must issue out of the throes of the revolution. Peace will not come to Mexico without a fairly definite transfer of power from the oligarchy that ruled the country under Diaz to the classes that have hitherto been kept in subjection. Madero's ruin was brought about in large measure by the refusal of the old ruling class to admit that it was beaten; as events showed, it had not been thoroughly beaten. That necessary process is now working itself out.

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THE NEW TRUST BILLS.

Publication at Washington of the bills drafted to carry out the recommendations of the President's message was accompanied by the promise of ample hearings on them and full debate. Any other course would be folly. No such measures should be rushed through at either the report stage or the voting in Congress. Wise as their authors may be, their work cannot be considered perfect from the beginning. These bills do not leap full-panoplied from the heads of their Jove-like framers. They come, rather, as tentative plans, to be fully discussed. To drive them through under Administration whip and spur would be a huge blunder.

The bill to prohibit interlocking directorates, allowing, as it does, two years' time in which to break up existing practices, is the one which meets with most public favor. It will probably not be opposed seriously. This is not to say that it should not be minutely scrutinized, to see that no injustice is done or abuses invited. A measure so sweeping in terms might well be in need of qualification, here and there; and exceptional circumstances may need to be recognized by exceptional provisions. As to the main intent and effect of the bill, however, there is pretty general agreement. The aim is to do away with a custom which has come to be freely admitted by all concerned to be bad. It is bad for the properties, railway or banking, bad for the directors, and bad for the public. Such voluntary withdrawals from directorates as we have lately witnessed show not only what the just feeling on the subject has become, but with what readiness the law making such withdrawals compulsory will be complied with.

Much more doubt will gather about the bill creating an Interstate Trade Commission. Its purposes are rather vaguely defined, but the powers confided to it are very great, and might be made both vexatious and hurtful. Most of them, it is true, are already given to the Bureau of Corporations. The chief thought seems to be to create a Government agency which may act as a sort of first assistant to the Attorney-General. At present, an immense burden is placed upon the Department of Justice. It has to investigate endlessly in preparation for possible suits under the Anti-Trust law; it has to study intricate proposals of adjustment made by threatened corporations, and to assume responsibilities almost too heavy for a single official unaided. In so far as the Interstate Trade Commission will be able to give the Attorney-General needed aid—in the way of inquiry, of passing upon a state of facts, and by having referred to it, with a hope of settlement, cases in an early stage of litigation—the intent is commendable. No one, however, can look at the drastic provisions giving the Commission the right to delve into all the details of private business without a little gasp of astonishment at the advocacy of such bureaucratic control by a political party which, in its early life, wrote into the Constitution the Fourth Amendment: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated."

Most questionable of all, in our opinion, is the attempt made to add new definitions to the Anti-Trust law. The great danger is that, where these are not unnecessary, they will be mischievous. On this point, the former Attorney-General, Mr. Wickersham, has written in the New York *Sun* with much force. The real questions involved seem to be confused in the public mind. There is a loose notion that the Anti-Trust law has proved ineffective. This is the reason given for proposing to insert more "teeth" into it. But Mr. Wickersham clearly shows—as other lawyers have shown before him—that the Sherman law, as interpreted and applied in a series of decisions by the Supreme Court, has been made one of the most effective statutes ever written. As a matter of fact, nearly all the practices aimed at in the new definitions now proposed have already been held by the Court to be obnoxious to the existing law. Most of them were discussed and entered into the reasoning of the Court in the Standard Oil and Tobacco decisions. Mr. Wickersham pointedly asks how it came about that many corporations have made the "honorable surrender" to the law of which President Wilson speaks in congratulation. The obvious reason is that they and their counsel have at last found out that the Anti-Trust law is not only capable of enforcement, but is enforced in a very effective way.

The reasons why it seems unwise now to amend a statute shown to be inclusive and efficient are plain. There is, first, the danger which Senator Edmunds pointed out before Mr. Wickersham did, of "defining the definition." The law has now undergone complete judicial exposition. To introduce new phrases into it might have the result both of disturbing what is settled and of provoking a great deal of new and needless litigation. And the second danger is even graver. It is that the process of prohibition may be pushed so far—as by the Stanley bill, or some of the clauses in the new bill defining unfair trade practices—as either to make the law a dead letter or business a dead thing. If the attempt is seriously made to put all commerce into a strait-jacket, and to take away from the courts the right to discriminate between reasonable and unreasonable restraints of trade, we know what will follow practically and we ought not to forget what will follow judicially. For the Supreme Court plainly announced, in the Standard Oil decision, that if the rule of reason were not to be permitted in the interpretation of the Sherman law, then the Court would be compelled to declare the entire act unconstitutional.

BETWEEN TWO WORLDS.

The death of Edward Ginn removes a man in whom the ancient idealisms bravely persisted. A lover of peace, he labored for it with voice and pen; nor did he forget his purse. Generously supporting in his lifetime an organization for the furthering of peace, he left it by will $1,000,000. It is not the amount of this benefaction—though, all things considered, it deserves to be ranked with Mr. Carnegie's gifts to the same cause—that impresses one so much as its spirit. It is a form of silent but constant protest against strong tendencies of the day. These are partly warlike, partly materialistic. The attempt is made to bind up national dignity and national development and the well-being of the people with an ever-mounting preparation for war. Yet, as the militarists grow more aggressive, so do the peace-men become more outspoken. Every needless Dreadnought means a needed Edward Ginn.

There is nothing new in the struggle between humane ideas and force. But

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it does seem to have been accented and made to appear unusually pathetic in our day. Never was there so great a stirring of the social conscience; never so many men and women spending themselves upon work for their less fortunate brothers and sisters; never so widespread an interest taken in backward or oppressed races. Yet at the same time never was the demand for armament so great, never was the argument of pike and gun more freely used by responsible statesmen, never were war taxes in time of peace so crushing. We seem, in all this, to be standing between two worlds, one dead, the other powerless to be born.

How active and humane men are distracted between the two we see vividly illustrated just now in England. An issue is made within the Liberal party on the question of expending even higher sums on the navy. Fully one-third of the Liberal members of Parliament have joined in a protest against any increase in the naval estimates. The Cabinet is of two minds about it, the militarists being led by Winston Churchill, while Lloyd George is on record as holding that the time is ripe for a revision and cutting down of the appropriations for army and navy. Now, whatever else may be said of Lloyd George, it cannot be denied that he represents in a peculiar way the inarticulate strivings of the working-classes in England. It is because he is dreaming of vast policies of social reform that he looks with jealous eye upon anything that seems like squandering of the national resources upon unproductive and money-devouring battleships. Not a Little Englander—for Lloyd George has more than once uttered the large note of British pride and determination in over-sea affairs—he is mainly a champion of the poor; and as such, his opposition to the extreme militarists makes his figure one that serves to typify strikingly the drag of two conflicting forces upon public men to-day. They would be reformers and renovators, yet there is the peril of war to be provided against! They would advance boldly along the paths of civilization, yet fears of recurring savagism deter them. They would be humane and merciful and generous, yet they would be the strong man armed!

To Americans the problem is presenting itself just now mainly in the form of our national policy as respects the Philippines. The question is obscured by many incidental matters, thrust into its discussion, but the central choice which the country is called upon to make is that between force and self-government, between exploitation and unselfishness. Now, as we have said many times before, honest men and good men differ in their interpretation both of the facts and of our duty in regard to the Filipinos. It is a fair subject for public debate. But every man who engages in it should first search his own heart to make sure that he has no selfish interest in arguing for a continued holding of the islanders in subjection. We can listen with patience, if not with agreement, to ex-President Taft, for no one supposes that he is speaking aught but his sincere belief, uncolored by any thought of private advantage. But the case must be different with men who are avowedly engaged in enterprises to make money out of the Philippines, and who desire that American control shall be indefinitely prolonged in order to further their projects. For such people to set themselves up either as authorities or as disinterested guides, is a piece of effrontery. They may be right in their opinion. But they at least ought to have the grace to keep still, when it is so evident that they are arguing for their own pockets. High reasoning on destiny and international relations is certain to fall to the ground with a thud when it is known that the high reasoners are intent upon capitalizing their convictions, and turning their opinions into cash.

Here is the worm in the bud of transcendental militarism and manifest destiny—this haunting suspicion of self-interest, this chuckling of armament-makers over a war-scare being "good enough" to mean their booking of more orders, this lurking fear of corruption in the purchase of guns and ships. Even the knightly *Bushido* of Japan is in danger of being tainted, if we may believe the evidence given in a German court about bribes paid to Japanese naval officers. Human nature has many unplumbed depths, but it is hard to think of a lower deep than that in which schemers, in the name of national glory, seek to coin money out of the blood and tears of men and women and children.

IS AMERICAN VITALITY DECLINING?

In an editorial which appeared in the *Nation* on January 15, under the above heading, we took the position that the statistics of increased death-rates among persons between the ages of forty-five and sixty-five do not warrant the conclusion that there has been a deterioration in American vitality or in American living conditions. "We are not asserting," we said, "that the conclusion is false, though we are inclined to think it so; but we do say it does not follow from the premises." We print to-day a criticism of that editorial by Mr. Louis I. Dublin, statistician of the Metropolitan Insurance Company; and the weight to which his judgment is entitled, the intrinsic importance of the subject, and its prominence in present-day discussion make it worth while to revert to the question again.

In order to make the matter clear, we must insist first of all on the fact that our position was purely critical. We did not assert that the above-mentioned increase of mortality *is* "entirely due to the advances" in medical science, etc., that have taken place; we merely pointed out that the figures are capable of this favorable interpretation instead of the unfavorable one put upon them by the authorities we referred to. Mr. Dublin makes a good point when he draws attention to the fact that the figures relating to females seem to militate against the hypothesis we put forward, and to indicate that there are "other causes at work." But we ourselves suggested that other causes may be at work, and in particular we pointed out one such possible cause with great emphasis; but, strange to say, Mr. Dublin has taken its significance to be precisely the opposite of what it is. The point is important, and has apparently escaped the attention of writers on the subject.

Imagine the population divided into two halves—an upper and a lower half, say—in respect to living conditions. Suppose that the proportion of persons in the lower half who live to ages above forty-five is much smaller than that in the upper half. And now suppose that absolutely no change takes place in the situation except that conditions in the lower half are so improved as greatly to increase the proportion of persons in that half who live to ages above forty-five. The effect of this upon death-rates

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in the various age-groups would be precisely of the nature of what has actually been observed. The death-rate in age-groups below forty-five would of course be reduced; but the very improvement that had taken place in the lower half—unless it was so great as to bring its condition up to that of the upper half—would push into the age-groups above forty-five an increased percentage of persons belonging to that half, and subject to a higher death-rate than the average. Taking the population as a whole, therefore, there would be a decrease in the death-rate in the age-groups below forty-five and an increase in the death-rate in the age-groups above forty-five. We do not assert that this is what has actually taken place; but so far from having shown that it has *not* taken place, the proponents of the conclusion we are contesting seem never to have so much as considered the possibility. To test the question, it would be essential to have some means of finding the trend of death-rates classified not only by age-groups, but also by economic conditions. Of course, if it were, as Mr. Dublin appears to think, "generally agreed" that living conditions among the working classes are worse than they were thirty years ago, no statistical inquiry would be necessary; but we are quite unaware that any such general agreement exists.

Upon other points brought forward by Mr. Dublin we can touch but very briefly. He acknowledges the complexity of the subject, and is himself inclined to believe that the drift to the cities and the influx of immigrants have "played an important part in our total results"; but so long as no numerical estimate has been made of the influence of these factors, as well as others that are known to enter into the question, with what assurance can one put forward the conclusion of a real decline in vitality or deterioration of conditions? Even as to the factor of the saving of life in the earlier ages as the true explanation of many deaths at the later ages, Mr. Dublin admits its reality, both in his present letter and in his article in the *American Journal of Public Health*; and as to its extent no one has any quantitative data. And we cannot refrain from suggesting that, while it is perfectly true that the lives saved by modern advances in medicine and sanitation represent the best stocks as well as the worst, yet he would hardly deny that those advances do interfere in some measure with the selection, by survival, of the hardiest constitutions.

As for the moral effect of casting doubt on the unfavorable interpretation of the statistics, that is something which should hardly be allowed to interfere with the plain requirements of scientific reasoning. But as a matter of fact we do not admit that the moral effect of doubting that conditions are growing worse, or believing that they are growing better, is such as he fears. The most conspicuous case of progressive and unquestioned improvement relating to living conditions among the poor is that of the saving of infant lives. But the appetite for such achievement grows by what it feeds on. The more the infantile death-rate is reduced, the harder we work to reduce it still further. Health departments do not seek to enlist public sympathy or public funds for their work by concealing or belittling what has been accomplished, but quite the contrary. Whether conditions among the people who live lives of hard and life-shortening toil are better or worse than they were thirty years ago, we all know that there is plenty of reason for improving them. But in many ways it does make a great deal of difference whether the one thing or the other is true; and we shall not do well to assert either until we have gathered and thoroughly analyzed the necessary data.

STRATHCONA AND CANADA.

It is seldom that the growth of an individual and of a nation coincide so closely in time and incident as the career of the late Baron Strathcona and of the Dominion whose most distinguished citizen he was at the time of his death, with the possible exception of Sir Wilfrid Laurier. The sturdy Scotch lad came to Canada in 1838, the very same year that the Earl of Durham was sent to study conditions in British North America and to draft the famous report which led two years later to the union of Ontario and Quebec. For thirty years, while the problems of union were working out in eastern Canada, he was engaged, as factor and representative of the Hudson's Bay Company, in the vast territories of the Northwest from which was to be carved out the new Canada upon whose remarkable development the attention of the world has been fixed for a decade. He became head of the Hudson's Bay Company in Canada in 1868, the year after the establishment of the Dominion, and by virtue of his position played a leading rôle in the transfer of the company's lands to the new Dominion Government. Precisely as in the case of the new-born United States, the new Canadian Federation found in its Northwest Territory a bond of union among the older provinces, and the condition and guarantee of national expansion.

Baron Strathcona's death leaves James J. Hill, at first his rival and later his firm ally, as the last survivor of the giant race of railway builders. In actual wealth production the lands of our own Northwest may have shown a richer return. But Strathcona's great achievement, the Canadian Pacific Railroad, impresses itself more deeply on the imagination. It meant the linking up of two oceans. It testified to the bold faith in its own future by a nation hardly out of its swaddling clothes. When our first transcontinental railway was completed we were a people of nearly forty millions. When the Canadian Pacific was completed Canada had a population of a little more than four millions. When one speaks of the faith of a nation in its own future, one means, of course, the faith and the prophetic outlook of its boldest spirits. The future Baron Strathcona had bitter opposition to overcome before the Canadian Parliament would give its sanction and its support to his transcontinental road. Like our own railway builders, he was interested in politics only to the extent that politics furthered or stood in the way of his dreams of expansion. He changed his party affiliations whenever a change was necessitated by his pioneer work. Towards the end of his life, with his work completed, he stood above partisan relations. He was the one man designated by logic to serve as representative abroad of the Canadian nation.

It was in 1896 that he was appointed High Commissioner of Canada in London. His baronial title came the following year. His services took largely the form of procuring population for the regions his railways had opened up. While men like Clifford Sifton carried on missionary work in the United States, Strathcona did brilliant press-agent work for Canada in the home countries. Heavy though the flow of emigration has been from the United

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States into Canada, it has in later years been equalled by the inpour from the United Kingdom. In 1908-09 the British Isles sent some 52,000 colonists to Canada. In 1912-13 the number had risen to nearly 140,000. From Baron Strathcona's native Scotland the drift to Canada has become an exodus, to the point where Scotland finds itself concerned over a depopulation problem. Strathcona's effective publicity work for Canada has been imitated, but hardly approached, by the other British dominions beyond the seas.

In this aspect of his career Baron Strathcona attained Imperial importance. By stimulating the flow of emigration from the motherland he not only contributed to the development of the Canadian Northwest, but supplied a counterbalance to the rapid dissemination of "Yankee" influence in the Northwest through the rapid inrush from the United States. Just as his earlier career at home was coincident with the rapid internal development of the Dominion, so his later career as Canadian plenipotentiary to the mother country coincided with the strengthening of Imperial sentiment which has been so notable a phenomenon of recent Canadian growth. His equipment of a regiment of horse for service during the Boer war was, like his entire career, a symbol of national development and a contributing cause. If Canada has witnessed the virtual disappearance of the annexation idea with regard to the United States and the appearance of a spirit of proud self-sufficiency in relation to this country, credit must be given in large measure to Strathcona's labors in behalf of Imperial patriotism.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT.

The typical American village, from New York to New Mexico, is often wanting in civic spirit. That fact is writ large upon its face. It has one focus of interest in the school, and half-a-dozen in the churches and lodges. But it lacks the solidarity that would manifest itself in a true village pride; it is a population small enough to be really a unit, and permanent enough to strike its roots deep, yet it does not organize itself. This is not true of the towns of New England, which fifty years ago looked after their lyceums, their commons, shade trees, and white palings. But the dreariness of most Western, Atlantic, and Southern villages testifies to the rule; they bear an unkempt aspect which, as William Allen White wrote, requires the touch of twilight to give it kindliness. If the traveller glances about for a cause, he may think he finds it in the rather sordid atmosphere. The country town seems preoccupied with the day's work. But the true reason lies deeper.

In a volume which Parris T. Farwell, of the Village Improvement Committee of the Massachusetts Civic League, has just issued, are summarized recent attempts to deal with the general carelessness about village appearance. The society chosen as a model, it is true, is the Laurel Hill Association, in Massachusetts, which has done remarkable work since 1853; and to New England the book gives most space. But there are also examples from the Dakotas, the South, and the Pacific Northwest which tell of accomplishment out of all proportion to their short history. There are States wherein the villages are characterized as interested in one aspect of improvement only—roads and streets, sanitation, or libraries and parks. But it is implied that their leavening power is great, if only in spurring emulation. Over one aspect of the situation in the Mid-West there is much seemingly shortsighted rejoicing. It is that outside stimulation has generally prompted local effort. A State Good Roads Association brings about the macadamizing of the streets. A travelling library system, as in Iowa and Wisconsin, results in the founding of local libraries. State horticultural societies have done wonders in provoking planting of trees and shrubs. In hundreds of small towns the railway adornment of station grounds has furnished an object-lesson. State Universities have been useful agents. But would not the impulse be healthier and longer-lived if it were self-born?

The want of spontaneity springs naturally from the constitution of the ordinary American village. It fails of initiative within itself because conditions scarcely favor the production of leaders or the recognition of leaders. As indicated by a group of writers in the *Atlantic* in recent years, there is a want of imagination, of larger interests, manifested in a petty round of gossip and of jealousies, and in a painful sense of personal or family reserve. Given a group small enough, and Neighbor Jones will be loath to suggest a local improvement, because it savors of interference with Neighbor Smith's affairs. The other conditions may be, at most, contributory causes. One that has to be considered is the rapidly changing personnel of many villages. They are not, as in Europe, inhabited from generation to generation by a family in the self-same trade, but by ever-shifting names.

It would be a serious matter if the American village's indifference to attractiveness rested on blunted perceptions. Then the proper method would be a revival of lecturers of the Oscar Wilde type, who with sunflower boutonnière could make the Chautauqua circuit echo a new gospel. Such men could point out that there is no reason why the flatness of Illinois should not be made beautiful, and deliver to Leadville's or Deseret's residents a new version of Ruskin on the mountain glory. But any town which has gone far enough in the concerted action of its citizens to provide itself with a Chautauqua is likely to be thinking also of its civic beauty. Possibly the amphitheatre itself rests in a specially designed park, part of a plan of local improvement which the distant future will consummate. With the process of natural selection between fit and unfit buildings, the prospect of our small towns is not so cheerless as the present ugly state of many would indicate. Much will depend upon the extension of those general or State agencies of which we have spoken. But at bottom, the change must follow upon the birth of a new social spirit in the village itself. Wherever, in the future, we have a beautified centre, we may be sure a set of social-minded people has been created.

THE MERRY ANARCH.

It is no longer true that to be born the eldest son of an English peer is the happiest fate one might pick out. To be born an English intellectual revolutionist is infinitely jollier. No one in London manages to get so much fun out of life as Mr. Bernard Shaw, unless it be Mr. Chesterton or Mr. Belloc. It does not matter what particular school of revolutionary thought a man belongs to. He may be an Ibsenian revolutionist

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like Mr. Shaw, or a mediæval revolutionist like Mr. Chesterton, or a Catholic revolutionist like Mr. Belloc. If only a man stands up against things as they are, he has tapped the sources of inexhaustible merriment. The Atlantic cable hums with the lighthearted pranks of men whose professed business it is to undermine society. Between social explosions they are a lot of schoolboys. They hit one another with bladders, they make faces at one another, they scribble one another's names on the fences, and when they have drawn a crowd of curious citizens, they trip down the sidewalk with their arms over one another's shoulders. Sometimes they have mock trials with Mr. Chesterton as judge and Mr. Shaw as foreman of the jury. Sometimes Mr. Belloc writes a burlesque novel and Mr. Chesterton draws ludicrous cartoons to illustrate it. Sometimes Mr. Chesterton writes a book about Mr. Shaw. Sometimes Mr. Shaw writes a vaudeville to accompany a serious play by Mr. Chesterton. It is hard to imagine them as enemies of society. One would rather think of them as a band of cosmic cut-ups.

We are thus driven to believe that the traditional type of revolutionary—the sinister, heavily-bearded, and unwashed enemy of society—no longer exists outside of the books of E. Phillips Oppenheim. The up-to-date sapper of the social order does not slink through alleys and subterranean passages, but prefers to keep in close touch with the Associated Press. British philistinism cannot spoil Mr. Shaw's temper; it only inspires him to write a jolly farce like "Fanny's First Play." The cruelties and stupidities of modern life stimulate Mr. Shaw to the point where he goes out and has M. Rodin model a bust of him. When Mr. Chesterton contemplates the unholy alliance between privilege and finance which makes up modern government, when he thinks of the pretentious ineptitudes of parliamentary oratory, when he finds himself encompassed by the schemes of self-seeking fanatics and reformers, he feels so depressed that he immediately dashes off a ballad or two in praise of brown October ale. Foreigners who have long admired the peculiar traits of the Anglo-Saxon temperament will find another illustration in the revolutionist who goes about his work of destruction with a merry snatch of song on his lips. Foreigners more distantly removed in time, say, Isaiah or Amos or Jeremiah, would find it very difficult indeed to make out this new kind of prophet, who finds that the world is so full of a number of miserable and reprehensible things, he is sure we should all be as happy as kings.

The one person above all others who has a rather sad time of it to-day is precisely the supposedly comfortable, supposedly self-satisfied suburban citizen against whom Mr. Shaw has waged the warfare of a lifetime. Remember all that Mr. Shaw and his fellow-revolutionists have said about the British philistine and the elaborate conventions which he has built up to save himself the trouble of independent thought and conscience. Behind this wall of moral conventions, religious conventions, conventions of social propriety, the citizen is pictured as going about his exclusive business, which consists in the satisfaction of his own material wants; a stupid ruminative life, but pleasurable in a low way.

Yet what are the facts? While Mr. Shaw and Mr. Chesterton are romping about and throwing stones and shouting aloud in the joy of their hearts, your stolid middle-class citizen worries. He worries over his duties as a citizen, over the Poor Law, slums, child labor, milk kitchens, eugenics, military training, model dance halls, hospitals, model tenements, the decline of the rural population, the peril of moving-picture theatres, the tango, and the slit-skirt. Mr. Shaw is never so amused as when he contemplates the suburban citizen pottering about the business of reform, since every revolutionist knows that reform is itself only a stupid convention, a cheap balm for the conscience. And your moderately progressive citizen is indeed a stupid animal. Else he would recognize that this business of patching up society only brings worry, whereas the revolutionist kicks over the whole mess at once and is happy as the day is long.

Some day the stodgy middle-class citizen will discover the secret which the revolutionists have long mastered. Then everybody will turn against things as they are and life will be one loud peal of merriment. Thousands of good people will imitate Mr. Chesterton and call for barricades with the fine, orotund hilarity in which one calls for a pint of ale. Other thousands will imitate Mr. Shaw and indite roundelays against the marriage tie and in favor of state support of children. Our problems will be solved when we are all one jolly crew busily engaged in scuttling the ship of state.

CANADIAN BOOKS OF 1913.

OTTAWA, January 7.

Contemporary Canadian literature—using the word in its broadest sense—reflects to a large extent the spirit of the country. That spirit is to-day frankly materialistic. It takes pride in the vast material resources of the Dominion, in the development of great industries, in the ever-widening net of railways, in the growth of national wealth. Its idols are of the flesh. It worships the great god Success. It is too much preoccupied with the things that make for physical comfort or luxury to give much thought to those that are merely intellectual. This materialistic spirit is reflected to a large extent in the contemporary literature of all countries, but at present we are concerned with Canada alone. One finds it not only as the animating spirit in books of every description, but as a deadening factor in the circulation of books that contain a higher motive. Doubtless in all ages books have been commonly read in inverse ratio to their true worth as literature, but that was never truer than it is to-day, in this age of universal education and enlightenment. To what extent this materialistic spirit tends to deaden the development of the higher forms of literature it would be difficult to say. Whatever the reason, Canada has as yet produced no genius in literature, though it has counted, and counts to-day, many writers of fair ability, and a very few of higher rank.

This ponderous and rather pessimistic introduction is the result of wading through a formidable pile of books, of all sorts and sizes, written in or about Canada during the year 1913.

By all odds the two most important books of the year are "Goldwin Smith: His Life and Opinions," by Arnold Haultain (Toronto: McClelland & Goodchild), and "Correspondence of Goldwin Smith," edited by Arnold Haultain (New York: Duffield). Just how far Goldwin Smith may be counted as a Canadian is, of course, a debatable point. He was born and educated in England; his heart was throughout a large part of his life with Cornell; but for many years his home was in Toronto, and although he always seemed a man apart, he took a deep interest in Canadian affairs. His criticism was always too caustic and tactless to be acceptable to his contemporaries, but there cannot be any reason to doubt that, in some

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respects at least, his influence upon Canadian life and thought will be real and lasting. He was largely instrumental in founding and supporting several of the best magazines Canada has possessed, the old *Canadian Monthly*, the *Nation*, the *Week*, and the *Bystander*. The last-named he edited himself for several years, and any student of Canadian affairs is lucky who possesses a set of this almost forgotten periodical. In his Life, which is rather material for biography than biography proper, as well as in his Correspondence, the man stands revealed, a rather lonely and friendless figure, with a distinctly poor opinion of most of his contemporaries and little faith in their works, but withal a champion of intellectual things in a very materialistic age, and a master of English when English was least understood. His was the voice of one crying in the wilderness, but the message may not in the end be fruitless.

In Canadian biography not much else of importance appeared in 1913. Sir George Ross's "Getting into Parliament and After" (Toronto: Briggs) is a readable volume of reminiscences, by one who has been what is known in Canada as a Liberal of the old school. Sir George Ross was chief lieutenant to Sir Oliver Mowat in the Ontario Government, and succeeded him in the Premiership. For several years he has led the Liberal party in the Dominion Senate. Emma A. Currie's "Story of Laura Secord and Canadian Reminiscences" (St. Catherines: Currie) contains some of the useful material from which historians get their sidelights on pivotal events.

In the general department of history, the year's publications are much more varied. The close of 1913 saw the practical completion of the ambitious work, "Canada and Its Provinces" (Toronto: Publishers' Association), which is appearing in more than a score of volumes, under the general editorship of Dr. Arthur G. Doughty, Dominion Archivist, and Prof. Adam Shortt, formerly of Queen's University and now Civil Service Commissioner in Ottawa. About half the work has been issued, and the balance is now in the hands of the printers, with the exception of an elaborate index which is to fill a final volume. The various phases of the country's history, general and provincial, were entrusted to writers each of whom was recognized as an authority in his own particular field, and with the painstaking editorial supervision to which every article has been subjected, the result will be a work of unusual value, creditable alike to Canada and to those engaged in the undertaking.

Two books of more than ordinary interest, though possessing nothing in common, are Col. William Wood's "In the Heart of Old Canada" (Briggs) and William Ogilvie's "Early Days on the Yukon" (Toronto: Bell & Cockburn). The former deals with a variety of topics related to the history of Quebec, and has the double charm of romantic subjects and very attractive treatment. The value of the late Mr. Ogilvie's book is in its matter rather than its manner, and yet there are vivid flashes in this little narrative of stirring events in the early days of the northern goldfields. Several volumes of informing material, perhaps of larger interest to the local student or the historian than to the general reader, are Miss K. M. Lizars's "Valley of the Humber" (Briggs), setting forth the place of this romantic stream on the outskirts of Toronto in Canadian history; Miss Janet Carnochan's "History of Niagara" (Briggs), in which is described by an acknowledged authority the story of the little town at the mouth of the Niagara River, once the capital of Upper Canada; W. S. Herrington's "History of the County of Lennox and Addington" (Toronto: Macmillan), the story of one of the United Empire Settlements in Ontario; Emily P. Weaver's "Story of the Counties of Ontario" (Bell & Cockburn), somewhat superficial but readable; Barlow Cumberland's "Century of Sail and Steam Navigation on the Niagara River" (Toronto: Musson), in which romance and commerce are entertainingly combined; and Dr. Alexander Fraser's "Brock Centenary, 1812-1912" (Briggs), containing an account of the celebration at Queenston Heights, Ontario, on the 12th October, 1912.

An important addition to the scanty literature of the Northern fur-trade is Isaac Cowie's "Company of Adventurers" (Briggs), in which the author gives an account of his own experiences and adventures in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company from 1867 to 1874. L. J. Burpee's "Scouts of Empire" (Musson) is a small book in the same general field, dealing with the lives of such Western explorers and fur-traders as Henry Hudson, Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser, etc.

The Dominion Archives issues a volume of "Documents Relating to the Invasion of Canada and the Surrender of Detroit, 1812," edited by Col. E. A. Cruikshank, and has in press a second series of "Canadian Constitutional Documents" and a volume of "Pioneer Legislation." The Champlain Society did not actually issue a volume in 1913, but the annual report announces several works as either in press or approaching completion, among others volume three of Lescarbot's "History of New France," edited by Professor Grant; the "Journals of La Vérendrye," edited by L. J. Burpee; the "Knox Journal," edited by Dr. A. G. Doughty; the "Journal of David Thompson," of the Northwest Company, edited by J. B. Tyrrell; the first volume of the new edition of the works of Champlain; and Col. William Wood's "War of 1812."

A most interesting volume is Elihu Stewart's "Down the Mackenzie and Up the Yukon" (New York: Lane), a popularly written story of Mr. Stewart's official journey in 1906 as Superintendent of Forestry for Canada. Two readable and attractive books dealing with the Province of Quebec and its peculiarly interesting people are Beckles Willson's "Quebec, the Laurentian Province" (New York: Stokes), and J. Castell Hopkins's "French Canada and the St. Lawrence" (Bell & Cockburn). A particularly attractive reprint of an old Canadian book that has come to be recognized as a classic is Susanna Moodie's "Roughing It in the Bush" (Bell & Cockburn). Clarke's the "Heart of Gaspe" (New York: Macmillan) describes with sympathetic insight an out-of-the-way corner of Canada, whose picturesque scenery and simple-minded inhabitants deserve to be better known.

In the broad field of economics and public affairs there have been published during the year several books and pamphlets of considerable interest. One of these is Prof. O. D. Skelton's "Economic History of the Dominion" (Publishers' Association); another is John MacDougall's "Rural Life in Canada," an exhaustive treatment of a neglected subject of prime importance. Prof. Stephen Leacock has brought out a new edition of his "Elements of Political Science" (Boston: Houghton). Hamar Greenwood's "Canada as an Imperial Factor" (London: Collins); "Canada and Sea-Power," by "Christopher West" (McClelland); J. S. Ewart's "Kingdom Papers" (Ottawa: Ewart); John L. Morison's "British Supremacy and Canadian Autonomy" (Kingston: Queen's University); Henry Bourassa's "Spectre of Annexation" (Montreal: *Le Devoir*), and A. H. F. Lefroy's "Canada's Federal System" (Toronto: Carswell) are also contributions to our knowledge of problems of Canadian citizenship.

Nothing has been said so far of Canada's contributions to belles-lettres during the past year. Unfortunately, in the realm of pure literature there is little to record, beyond a very few volumes of verse and essays. The only notable contribution to Canadian poetry is Miss Marjory Pickthall's "Drift of Pinions" (Montreal: University Magazine Co.). While somewhat unequal in quality, this first little volume of Miss Pickthall's contains several short poems of exquisite delicacy and feeling, sufficient in themselves to mark the writer as one from whom even better things may be expected in the future. Miss Virna Sheard's "The Miracle" (Toronto: Dent) is a somewhat more ambitious volume, of magazine verse of fair quality, in the main readable and

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attractive, but never rising much above mediocrity. The volume of poems by the late George Murray (Murray) contains one or two historical ballads, and several translations that make the book one worth remembering. George Murray many years ago was an intimate friend of Sir Edwin Arnold. For half a century he was closely identified with the educational and intellectual life of Canada. Since the death of Pauline Johnson, a new edition of her "Flint and Feather" (Musson) has appeared, with a number of additional poems. This edition appears with a sympathetic introduction on the life and genius of the remarkable Indian poet, who so strikingly revealed in her work the qualities of the two races from which she sprang. It remains to mention the "Oxford Book of Canadian Verse" (Toronto: Oxford University Press). The selection was in the hands of a Canadian poet, Dr. Wilfred Campbell, and to some extent the book reflects the disadvantages as well as the advantages of entrusting such work to a poet, but on the whole the collection is an admirable one and represents very fairly the characteristic work of the principal Canadian poets.

A volume of prose sketches by Pauline Johnson, "The Moccasin Maker" (Briggs), shows that she could write admirable prose, though lacking perhaps the distinctive charm of her poetry. The tenderness and graciousness with which she tells the story of her own mother's life is not unworthy of comparison with Barrie's "Margaret Ogilvie." The book contains an introduction by Sir Gilbert Parker and an appreciation by the Western Canadian poet, Charles Mair. In "Behind the Beyond" (Bell & Cockburn), Stephen Leacock brings together another collection of those delightfully amusing sketches which have marked him as a humorist with a manner that is altogether his own. His last book is hardly equal to "Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town," but there are passages in it that one would not willingly have missed.

L. J. B.

NEWS FOR BIBLIOPHILES.

The latest publication of the Bibliographical Society, No. xvi of its Illustrated Monographs, is likely to prove the most generally useful work it has yet produced. Mr. Ronald B. McKerrow, who now shares with Mr. A. W. Pollard the duties of honorary secretary, has listed all the printers' and publishers' devices which he has found used by English or Scotch printers from the beginning in 1485 to 1640. Such a list, with facsimiles of the 428 devices, would by itself have been invaluable to those who have occasion to try to answer the puzzling questions which arise in connection with so many old volumes.

Mr. McKerrow has done much more than bring this material together. He has indexed the devices according to size, the only practical means of identifying many of them, and also by names, mottoes, and initials. He has made a contribution to our knowledge of the English book, printing, and publishing trades by his notes on the transfer of devices from one establishment to another, while his readable introduction raises a number of questions for further investigation.

In connection with the detailed description of each device, Mr. McKerrow has shown a courage which would have been dangerous on the part of a less conscientious searcher. With each description, he has stated not only where he found the device, but the earliest and latest use of which he is aware. Every student who uses the book is likely to extend these dates—a single American library has carried one of them forward from 1513 to 1521—but this only goes to prove how greatly this feature adds to the practical usefulness of the volume. The fact that a woodcut in a book printed in 1521 was also in use in 1496 is not in itself important. Taken in connection with other facts, however, it helps to an understanding of what Richard Pynson's workshop was like, to know that this particular block was still in use fifteen years after he had it made. To the possessor of some old fragment in which the device is the only clue to when and where the book was printed, the importance of this fact is likely to seem very great indeed.

Mr. McKerrow's volume adds to the confusion in regard to one cut which has long been the cause of various theories among students of American books. In 1548 Edward Whitchurch, of London, printed Erasmus's "Paraphrase upon the New Testament." The title was enclosed in an elaborate border, with the royal arms at the top and those of Queen Catherine Parr at the foot. In the lower corners were the printer's initials, "E. W." The next year this border was used again by Whitchurch for the title of the first edition of the Book of Common Prayer. Whitchurch was the principal printer engaged in bringing out the Edward VI Prayer Book, a fact which may account for his exclusion from the general pardon proclaimed at the beginning of "Bloody Mary's" reign, in 1552. He thereupon disappeared from the shop at the Sign of the Sun in Fleet Street, and his scattered stock gradually reappeared in the hands of at least six other printers.

The marriage of Mary to King Philip II of Spain, and the closer commercial relations between London and the Spanish ports which followed this union, has been thought to be the probable explanation for the reappearance of Whitchurch's Prayer Book border in the City of Mexico, where it was used in 1559 for the title of Friar Maturino Gilberti's "Vocabulario en Lengua de Mechuacan," the native dialect used in the region beyond Lake Chapala. The cut had made a long journey from the heretical shop in Fleet Street, and the search for reasons to account for its travels has given ample play to the bibliographical imagination. So far the facts have involved nothing at all impossible or improbable. Now, however, comes Mr. McKerrow with the confusing information that he has seen the identical cut of the 1548 Erasmus and the 1549 Prayer Book, with the arms of Catherine Parr and the "E. W." whittled away, in use in London in 1554, in 1559, and, worst of all, in 1562. On the Mexican title-page of 1559 the arms have been altered, a common habit of the old wood-block cutters, but the letters "E. W." are in the place they occupy in the title of the Prayer Book. There seems to be only one explanation of the facts as they now stand. When the Book of Common Prayer was ordered to be used in the churches throughout England, all the available presses, working at their best, were unable to meet the demand for copies. At least six different issues of the Prayer Book appeared during the spring and summer of 1549, and these have given rise to various bibliographical questions, few of which have been answered satisfactorily. One of these, which apparently has not before been asked, is whether there were more than one of the "E. W." border cuts in use upon different presses printing the titles to the Prayer Book. If there were two, the seemingly impossible is explained.

GEORGE PARKER WINSHIP.

Correspondence

IS AMERICAN VIGOR DECLINING?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In your issue of January 15, you commented editorially on the question "Is American Vitality Declining?" and you were kind enough to quote some figures from my paper in the December number of the American *Journal of Public Health*, entitled "Possibilities of Reducing Mortality at the Higher Age Groups." In your opinion, the figures do not warrant the conclusions drawn, viz., that there has been a deterioration in American vitality. You would have us believe that the increased mortality between the ages of forty-five and sixty-five is entirely due to the advances in medical science, which have prolonged the lives of persons until this age-period who previously would have died at the younger ages. Indeed, you even suggest that this factor may in itself be sufficient to account for a larger increase in the mortality at the higher ages than has actually been observed, and that there may very well have been an improvement in the conditions of life rather than a deterioration.

I realize, of course, the importance of the sequelæ of the acute infections of early life, and pointed that out in my paper. My only quarrel with you is that you have seen fit to make this single point carry the entire burden of explanation. In this, I believe, your position is untenable.

Let us take the mortality of females. There has been a much larger decrease in their early mortality than that observed among males; but their mortality at the higher ages shows practically no increases, as we should expect from your explanation. In other words, there must be some other causes at work. These, I believe, include the increased consumption of alcoholic beverages and, more especially, the industrial conditions that have prevailed during the last thirty years.

The difficulty in your argument results from your primary assumption, namely, that the advances in medicine merely pro-

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long life. Nothing in nature corresponds to your hypothetical case. The saving of a life in infancy is not equivalent to giving the individual a lease of life for a limited term of years, as you conceive it. As Newsholme pointed out in his famous controversy with Pearson, the babies saved through present-day infant hygiene must not be classed as weaklings, but include the best and worst stocks in the community. Recent life-saving campaigns have directed their attention not so much to curing the sick as to the prevention of sickness itself. Indeed, improved milk and water supplies have been much more potent factors in reducing mortality at the younger ages than the advances in medicine. In the larger number of cases, therefore, there are no good reasons why the life which has been saved in early years should not run on to sixty-five and over. Our present anxiety is due to the fact that the increased mortality is occurring in the age-period between forty-five and sixty-five. We should like to see the acceleration in mortality begin after age sixty-five when no serious social damage would result.

Do you not virtually admit the weakness of your case in your last paragraph? You point out that "It is quite possible that the increase in the number of deaths at the ages above forty-five may be due to a larger number of persons reaching these ages among the classes engaged in hard and life-shortening toil." That was exactly the point we desired to make. In the first place, the classes engaged in hard and life-shortening toil form the major part of our population, and secondly, it is the hard and life-shortening toil itself which must be considered as an important cause to which we must ascribe the increased mortality under discussion. It is generally agreed among students of industrial conditions that the changes in the trades during the last thirty years have been of a nature to make life harder for those engaged in them. Fortunately, these conditions are now being improved voluntarily by employers, and through the influence of labor legislation.

The question under discussion is one of the most complex in the whole realm of vital statistics. The several causes to which I directed attention in my paper are important, but I do not contend that they are all-sufficient. A number of intensive studies must still be made to determine, for example, what effects have followed from the concentration of our population in the cities. We must also determine the effects of changes in the composition and characteristics of our population.

During the last ten years, there has been an influx of Italians, Hungarians, Russians, Poles, and Jews, largely of adult age, who may have had an unfavorable influence on our figures of mortality. It is important to observe in this connection that they have congregated largely in our registration States, and that in every case the mortality rates of their native countries are higher than those to be observed in the registration area of the United States. These two factors have undoubtedly played an important part in our total results; what that is, can be determined only by further research of the most intensive character.

In conclusion, you will permit me to direct attention to the fact that your conclusions are likely to have an effect very different from the one you contemplated. Those agencies which are now engaged in improving the conditions of labor, etc., are likely to be hindered in their work if there be agreement that the increases in mortality in later life are the result of the "survival for many years of some lives less hardy than the average which in olden days would have disappeared much sooner." I am certain that you are hardly prepared to take such a stand. Yet there will be those who, in defence of their anti-social conduct towards industrial workers, will take refuge behind your encouraging interpretation of American vital statistics.

LOUIS I. DUBLIN,
Statistician of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

New York, January 19.

THE HARVARD-TECHNOLOGY MERGER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The editorial in your issue of January 15 on the Harvard-Technology merger contains some half truths which are misleading. In that editorial Harvard's "non-success in the field of applied science" is measured by the number of graduate students. The statement is made that Harvard has less than sixty graduate students of applied science, while Technology has 250 graduates seeking its degrees. These numbers are incorrect and not comparable. Harvard has 139 students enrolled in its Graduate School of Applied Science, and taking courses leading to degrees in applied science. The 250 graduate students in Technology are the total number of graduate students there, which therefore includes the students in all branches both of pure and applied science. Such information as is obtainable indicates that the number of graduates at Technology taking courses in those fields of applied science which are offered at Harvard is barely, if at all, greater than the number of graduates in the Harvard School of Applied Science.

If, however, the figures were as stated by you, they would not indicate "non-success" at the Harvard School. The School is quite new; certain of its departments are not as yet fully manned; its courses are more rigorous and its standards higher than those of other technical schools in this country; its curriculum occupies the whole of the twelve months with practically no break, and it is as yet known only to a small minority of the students graduating from the colleges in this country. Many students are deterred from entering the Harvard School by the high standards maintained there, or by the absence of summer vacations, or because they must have their summers free to earn money to enable them to go on with their studies.

I would submit, however, that numbers are not a satisfactory indication of success. The instructors in the School of Applied Science are virtually a unit in believing that the experiment which Harvard University has started has turned out most successfully; that the students who have been attracted to the School show a high average of earnestness and capacity; that the graduates leave with better equipment than is possible in an undergraduate or a mixed graduate and undergraduate school; that there has been success in turning out men with thorough technical grounding, a broad outlook, and enthusiasm for their profession. As other engineering schools have started to follow in the path set by Harvard University, this success should be stated, as an encouragement to continue the experiment which has been so abruptly terminated by the governing boards of Harvard University.

In another respect also, your statement of facts is misleading. No faculty of Harvard University was informed of the merger until it had already been passed by the corporation of Harvard University and the executive board of Technology. It is true that the faculty of the School of Applied Science had an opportunity to ask questions about it two days before it was finally ratified by the overseers of Harvard University; but the overseers did not seek the advice of any of the faculties or of individual members of the teaching staff, and naturally approved what was submitted to them by the corporation. The faculty of arts and sciences learned of the completed merger only from the daily papers, though it is a matter of much importance to that faculty, because the position of the pure sciences in the University is greatly weakened by the removal of the applied sciences. The trustees of the McKay Fund also obtained their first news of the merger from the daily press. Mr. McKay had specifically refused to aid Technology; but the merger is based entirely upon the University giving up to Technology all real control over two-thirds of that fund.

These matters, which are of common knowledge in the University, have some importance to the community in relation to the growing sentiment against autocratic control of universities by their presidents or governing boards. It is interesting to note that one member only of the governing boards urged delay, in order that proper consideration might be given to a matter of so much importance; and that that one person was the sole member of the teaching staff on the governing board. Harvard has thrown away its unique School of Engineering, and not one person whose opinion was of value on that subject was consulted. It is surely time that the faculties of our universities should have a larger voice in the control of educational policies.

Harvard has two other graduate professional schools which might be merged with other local schools. The Harvard Law School would enrich the Boston University Law School if absorbed by it. The Harvard Medical School might do a like service to Tufts Medical College. The arguments that might be advanced for these combinations are precisely those which carried through the Harvard-Technology merger.

X.

Cambridge, Mass., January 23.

THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: I am very grateful to Dr. Rowland for his communication, published in the *Nation* on January 22, which states at length the most interesting feature of the recent business meeting of the American Historical Association—a feature to which I could allude only most briefly in my report of the meeting, owing to the cruel

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bonds of space limitation and not to any oligarchical attempt at *suppressio veri*. For I feel, in common, I believe, with every other member of the Association, including the officers, a keen appreciation of the courageous way in which Dr. Rowland stood up at Charleston to criticise the methods of the election of officers of the Association and to voice the opinion that the power of the Council "has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished." It is well that the members of the Association should be aroused by him to the fact that they have been too indifferent.

It is quite natural that the steadily widening membership and the increasingly varied activities of the Association, together with the human experience that it is oftener easier to do a thing one's self than to get some one else to do it, should have inevitably led to an increase in the powers and activities of the Council. I do not conceive of the Council as an oligarchy grasping for power, but rather as a hard-working body having increased labors thrust upon it. The Constitution of the Association says nothing about committees or their appointment. But as the work of the Association has grown with time, committees have had to be appointed. What was more natural than that they should have come to be appointed by the Council? So now we have reached the brink which Dr. Rowland has opportunely revealed. What is to be done?

If Dr. Rowland, or any one else, thinks that the general will of the members of the Association as to the choice of officers would be expressed satisfactorily and without criticism by simply following the letter of the clause in the constitution which he italicizes ("These officers shall be elected by ballot at each regular annual meeting of the Association"), I fear his optimism is excessive. For two objections would be raised. Only a small proportion of the members are able to attend the annual meeting. Not a tithe of the 2,843 members went to Charleston. Would not the absent ones say in criticism that they also ought to have some rights? They might. But in an organization like the Historical Association, in which the chief opportunity for activity is in attendance at the Christmas meeting, a sufficient reply to such critics would be that they have a right to attend the annual meeting and there ballot for officers, and that if they do not take enough interest to do this, they should not criticise. This objection, therefore, is not, so it seems to me, of serious consideration. However, in the plan outlined below, absent members would have some influence in making nominations even though they did not take part in the final ballot. There is another objection, however, which is vital and fundamental. As some one pointed out at Charleston—I think it was Professor Burr—it requires very little acquaintance with political assemblies, student organizations, and even college faculties to observe that a simple election by ballot is by no means likely to give general satisfaction. What usually happens in such cases is that a small group of men, more zealous or less scrupulous than the rest, come together beforehand, agree to support certain candidates, and spring upon the assembly an unseen slate which has enough organized support to carry the elections in a wholly unorganized mass of disconcerted electors. By a caucus of this sort a small and irresponsible minority may engineer elections by no means generally desired by the great majority.

To avoid the possibility of this and to afford an agency for ascertaining the real general wishes of the members of the Association, the Council has been in the habit of appointing a nominating committee. The Council and the committee, as they stated at Charleston, have genuinely made some effort, in going to and fro in the earth, to consult members whom they happen to meet in regard to desirable nominations for the December meeting. The only difficulty is that many an individual member may find, as does Dr. Rowland, that he himself did not happen to be one of those whom the committee happened to consult. Some years ago also the Council earnestly attempted to procure nominations by sending out to members, along with the bill for annual dues, a blank ballot for suggestions. But from some two thousand members they received less than two score replies. The experiment did not seem to be worth repetition.

In view of this situation I venture to repeat a suggestion which I heard favorably discussed on our homeward way from Charleston.

As it is essential that some canvass of opinions be made before the final balloting at the annual meeting, I suggest that the nominating committee, after learning as much as it can of the sentiments of the members by conversation, shall draw up a list of several nominations for each office to be filled, leaving space for, and expressing the hope of receiving, additional nominations. Let this list be sent to each member some weeks before the annual meeting in order that he may mark his preference among the suggested names or add nominations of his own. These marked nomination lists, returned to the committee, should be the basis for the final ballot to be voted upon at the annual meeting. This may be a little clumsy and involves some work, but it is similar to systems found fairly satisfactory by some colleges and universities for electing overseers, trustees, and alumni officers. It would not be likely to meet such apathy as did the efforts of the Council a few years ago, mentioned above; because a modest man who would hesitate to urge candidates whom no one has mentioned, is likely to be ready and eager to express a preference among names brought to his notice; and the provision for additional nominations would always give adequate opportunity to those who thought the nominating committee had not done its duty in bringing forward fairly representative names.

SIDNEY B. FAY.

Dartmouth College, January 24.

LAWMAKER AND EXPERT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Professor Sadler writes in the *Nation* of January 15 that if a committee of Congress declines to hear opinion upon the ground that it is not expert opinion, the logical conclusion is that Senator La Follette has no right to offer legislation upon the subject matter, of which he admits that he has no expert knowledge.

If the professor's reasoning is valid then a prosecuting attorney has no right to draw up an indictment for murder by poisoning unless he is an expert on the physiological effects of poisons.

But obviously the framing of a proposal and the taking of evidence upon it are very different operations. Identical rules do not apply.

WILLIAM P. MORRISON.

Boston, January 19.

CAFETERIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: You published some time ago an article on the word *cafeteria* and then later another one on "Pequeño Larousse Ilustrado," but failed to combine the two. If you had looked for the word in the dictionary, you would have found the following explanation: "Cafetería, f. *Cub.* Tienda donde se vende café por menor."

JOSEPH DE PEROTT.

Worcester, Mass., January 16.

A QUESTION OF HEREDITY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The *Nation* has already printed two attempts to translate into English the mathematical symbols of Professor Pearson's study of the children of Edinburgh drunkards; permit me to suggest a third. Mine has at least the advantage of being somewhat more flattering to the intelligence of the world's first scholar in his field.

As I understand Professor Pearson, the comparison is not, as is commonly assumed, between children of drinkers and non-drinkers, or of drunkards and moderate drinkers, taken as general classes. That is to say, it is not simply a comparison of children whose parents are damaged by alcohol with children whose parents are not damaged by alcohol. The point of the study is that the two groups are on the same social level.

In other words, the comparison is between the children of parents who are now at a social level where they naturally belong and the children of parents who naturally belong on a higher level, but whose alcoholism has dropped them down to the level where they actually occur.

The question, then, is this: Given a child with a certain heredity and a certain environment, how will this child compare with another child whose environment, though substantially the same, is on the whole made rather worse by the parental habits, but whose heredity is on the whole distinctly better? That the second family is, on the whole, "better" than the first, is assumed to be proved by the fact that, in spite of its alcoholic handicap, it still maintains itself at the same social level as the first.

The answer turns out to be precisely what every disciple of Darwin would expect it to be—the better native protoplasm more than offsets the alcohol, and the children of hard-drinkers prove to be slightly superior to their neighbors.

Whether, therefore, one agrees or not with the opinion of your correspondent, that Professor Pearson's "conclusions are ob-

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viously most untrustworthy and misleading," for the reason that "there was no comparison with children in normal, temperate families," must turn on one's understanding of what the eminent biometrician was actually trying to do. If he was studying the physiological problem of the effect of alcohol on offspring, the criticism is well made. If, on the other hand, he was studying the genetic problem of the distribution of native quality in different social classes, and selected the families of hard-drunkards merely as a convenient example of a "declassed" group who still retain something of their class quality, the weakness of his logic is by no means so obvious. All we need to know is that one group has damaged its social status by drink more than the other.

Which of these two interpretations of the paper is correct, can be settled only by the original text. E. T. BREWSTER.

Andover, Mass., January 20.

Literature

LI HUNG CHANG.

Memoirs of Li Hung Chang. Edited by William Francis Mannix, with an Introduction by Hon. John W. Foster. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co. $3 net.

The remarkable biography of the late Empress Dowager of China, compiled a few years ago from the original documents, has prepared the English-speaking world for almost any surprise when the curtain is lifted which reveals the inside of Chinese life among the mighty. The "Memoirs of Li Hung Chang," purporting to be derived from a great mass of manuscripts left by that statesman, may be accepted in the Western world without much comment, because we now know that the Chinese are subject to like passions as ourselves and are able to commit indiscretions in their letters and diaries like other people. In other words, the figment of the "inscrutable" Chinaman has begun to disappear. It is not, therefore, the amazing frankness or the naïvité of these pages that excites suspicion as to their entire genuineness, but the frequency with which statements occur in them that are not in accordance with known facts. Amid so many discrepancies it is noteworthy, moreover, that the editor not only refrains from comment in the case of new material, but fails to substantiate the authenticity of certain papers included here which were gravely impugned when they appeared in the newspapers some years ago. Either the translator is much at fault or Li had a romantic contempt for accuracy that renders his testimony upon events in which he was an actor a source of fresh anxiety to future historians. The Grand Secretary may have been confused or indifferent in recording incidents in places, like Windsor and San Francisco, where he had never been. But how could he have declared that he, with representatives of all the foreign Governments, personally saw the execution of the Tientsin rioters? According to the report of the British Consul, W. H. Lay, then at Tientsin, the Parliamentary Blue Book informs us that no foreigners were present at the execution, which occurred at 5:30 on the morning of October 18, 1870—a month after the date of the excerpt attributed to Li in this volume—nor was Li himself there. Other instances occur which, if we may trust the translation, seem to imply Li's inability to speak the truth even to himself.

The documents from which the contents of this book are derived were translated, we are told, by one Major R. Emmet Roberts, a secretary of the late Viceroy, assisted by two Chinese, who are so named in the preface as to render them impossible of identification. The originals, written on scraps of paper at various periods during the Viceroy's official career, contain more than a million and a half characters, only a tenth of which have been thought to be worth translating. It does not appear that these notes were written with any other motive than the relief which an active mind finds in mere literary exercise—and Li, like many cultivated Chinese, was an acknowledged master of style. Such material at best could be arranged and condensed to useful purpose only by its author. It has fallen into the hands of foreigners whose desire to render it into idiomatic English and present only such fragments as would attract Western readers, arouses a doubt as to how truly these memoirs reproduce the actual statements and opinions of the putative author. The editor's reticence suggests that he at least has no mind to be counted among those who step in where angels might fear to tread. To his ignorance of Chinese must be attributed the rather numerous errors in the transcription of proper names, but a little diligence with easily accessible authorities on modern China might have equipped him with more sensible interpolations than those inserted between the translations of the diary. No one, for instance, who reads his Chinese history could call the unfortunate and demented Issacher Roberts (not Robberts) "the chief Christian missionary of the time in the kingdom."

Upon the most outrageous public act in Li's whole career, the murder of the surrendered Tai-ping Wangs at Suchau, the editor makes no comment at all. This savage stroke occurred, according to Boulger's "Life of Sir H. Macartney," in Li's camp, which was within a palisaded enclosure where Macartney saw the decapitated bodies lying on the ground. From these memoirs we learn that the Governor was entertaining the captured chiefs—who had surrendered on solemn promise of personal immunity—on his boat lying near the city gate, when

> a great horde of lawless fellows, some of them Imperialists, but a majority of them drunken fellows of the Wangs' army, poured through the gate killing and assaulting. I was one of the first to hear the great uproar, and believing the marauders might be intent upon dispatching me—for threats had been made in many quarters—I made my escape from the barge and hurriedly entered the city. Immediately I sent orders, by officers we met, to get troops as soon as possible and arrest all the rioters; but the orders were not quickly obeyed, and a scene of wholesale slaughter occurred upon the barge.

The description does not tally with those recorded by others who were there, but even if we are to believe Li's account of this sorry affair, we could wish that it did not leave him open to the suspicion of treachery from which foreigners are not likely to acquit him. For these foreigners he entertained at first an aversion which gradually changed during his long intercourse with them to something approaching admiration. "It is not the men personally that I dislike," he writes in 1863, "but it is their airs of wonderful superiority. Each and every one sings the same song: 'I will do this, and I will do that; I will drive them out, or I will kill them all; I'll make your army more glorious than ever; but you must let me have my own way and not interfere with me!' That is the whole style of these foreigners." Twenty years later he was moved to write: "Fully appreciating what the Christian nations did for us in a late emergency, I cannot say that I am not friendly to the people of the West." There is hearty admiration for Gordon's talents and forgiveness for his hot temper—it was much like his own—but no sympathy whatever with his chivalry towards a fallen enemy or his consideration for his soldiers. Li's greatness was intellectual, not moral. He never approached the military genius of his older contemporary, Tseng Kuo-Fan, to whom is due the credit of quelling the Tai-ping rebellion, but he attained his success in this stormy period by superior subtlety, ruthless energy, and an appreciation much beyond his coadjutors of the advantage of employing foreign military skill in the service of his Government. Yet, though conscious of the necessity of equipping China with the scientific knowledge and armaments of the West, his avarice could not resist the temptations of profiting personally by the opportunities of high office. He grew rich while the troops of the new army he created were left unpaid, and the defences of the Empire crumbled under the first attack largely through the cupidity of their sponsor.

The Viceroy's association with the famous Empress Dowager constitutes

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perhaps the most interesting and obscure phase in his public career. Though he was called to Tientsin as early as 1870, and was thus brought into close relations with the Palace, we nevertheless have nothing in these papers that brings Li into political contact with the Old Buddha (the Empress) until the Japanese War. In this interval of twenty-five years the alliance betwen the two chief exponents of government by graft was so successfully cemented that the Metropolitan Viceroy became the richest subject in the Empire. The two Viceroys, Chang Chih-T'ung and Liu K'un-Yi, made it clear before they died that they thought him a partner also with the notorious eunuch, Li Lien-Ying, and responsible with him and the Dowager for a state of political corruption unequalled in China since the Ming dynasty. With his cynical indifference to any moral law that interfered with the exercise of his master passion it does not seem probable that Li could have failed to write some of the million and a half characters preserved in his various *yamens* upon this engrossing topic; but his family may observe a natural reticence as to the sources of his stupendous fortune. Yet, despite his insatiable appetite for gold, he could pretend admiration for honesty in others, like the high-minded Prince K'ung, whose death he laments in the days of the *coup d'état* of 1898: "If I could bring him back I would turn over, for the nation's sake, more than one-half of what I own; even though K'ung himself never helped me to accumulate a dollar, but rather put himself in my way two or three times." The formula is one we might expect to find in the diary of a Tammany chief, if one of these ever committed the indiscretion of keeping a diary.

The Empress herself comes in for one or two descriptive touches. While not averse to the introduction of Western learning, he approved her treatment of the reformer, K'ang Yu-Wei, and of the young Emperor, because the former was an extremist and the latter would not listen to Li's advice. In 1900 he calls her "perhaps the best personal friend I have in the world outside my own family and domicile." Yet she gave no heed to his advice, either, and when he tried to press her regarding her plans in the Boxer crisis, "she had been," he writes, "so cordial and amiable in comparison to her ordinary wont that I did not believe my further inquiry would offend her, but in an instant she was alive with wrath and angry words, and I immediately withdrew. I have seen women something like her before, but they were in my house and it was not necessary for me to get down on my knees to them." The old statesman, though discredited for a time, was again called upon to rescue the nation after the débâcle which ensued, but this was their last interview; he died ere the Empress returned from her flight to Sian. Both made what reparation they could at the end of their lives for the disasters which their unbridled avarice had brought upon their country, but they must share alike the odium of having prostituted their splendid talents in their indulgence in the most ignoble of vices.

CURRENT FICTION.

From the Angle of Seventeen. By Eden Phillpotts. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

Our regret at learning that Mr. Phillpotts intended to close his studies of Dartmoor life with "Widecombe Fair" was not quenched by the story that followed, "The Joy of Youth." It was amusing and brilliant, but lacked the solidity of the Dartmoor tales, without altogether shaking off their manner. "From the Angle of Seventeen" has no such reminders. It is so unlike anything else by Mr. Phillpotts that one can hardly believe it is his. A humorous sketch, it would be called, rather than a story—a year out of the life of an English boy chronicled by himself. We meet him at the moment when he ceases to be head boy in a big school, and becomes a clerk in a London "fire-office." He is greatly impressed with this "busy hive of industry," which "teemed with men of the greatest ability," and himself feels "like a mere insect in a solemn cathedral where a mighty service was going on and everybody was doing their appointed part but me." He lives with an aunt who "was quite old herself, and might have been at least forty. She was not yet withered, like the very old."

Of young Mr. Corkey's labors in the "fire-office," and his success in making a respectable place for himself in that hive, or cathedral; of his contact with the rude world of the streets; his aspirations towards the stage, achievements in poetry, athletics, and social life, these pages treat. We are conscious of a Mr. Phillpotts smiling over the writer's shoulder, but never taking the pen from him. When Corkey shows the record to his aged aunt (of thirty-eight) she piques him by laughing. For a moment their relations are strained; but he forgives her, "because she's really a jolly old thing, and of the greatest assistance to me behind the scenes, so to speak. Besides, everybody knows that the feminine sense of humor is merely dust and ashes. No doubt if I had written with badinage or pleasantry, in a light and transient vein, enlivened by sparks of persiflage and burlesque, she would have taken it in a tearful spirit and cried over it. . . . We must remember that they are not as we are, and treat them accordingly." From beginning to end there is no flaw in the delicious boy-style, with its artless slang and its equally artless pursuit of threadbare "literary" phrases.

It Happened in Egypt. By C. N. and A. M. Williamson. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co.

What happened to the Williamsons in Egypt is very much like what has happened to them before this in other climes dear to the tourist. The writers do not divulge the secret of the Sphinx or other matters sacred to Egypt, but they do concern themselves with information of a more practical nature. They are particularly successful in hitting upon the most picturesque corners of the country at the most favorable moment.

In the matter of adventure, neither variety nor quantity is lacking. To a large extent, the story revolves about two young men who are negotiating with the Government for the rights to excavate "The Golden Mountain," near Cairo. One of the two is blessed with a title, the other with a romantic history and a romantic disguise. They are invaluable assets to a rich promoter who organizes expeditions *de luxe* on the Nile. To draw the millionaire crowd, a titled guide to lecture on Egypt is essential. So he buys the rights to the Golden Mountain and consents to cede them, only if the young men will agree to pilot rich tourists on the Nile. The young men consent, and then things begin to happen in Egypt. Among those who consent to be piloted is, of course, a young American heiress, whom Lord Borrow has met on the steamer.

The Sphinx in the Labyrinth. Maude Annesley. Duffield & Co.

The mere story of the book is its most suggestive criticism. The love between a beautiful invalid artist and her husband, who gave up a brilliant career in law to take care of his wife, is so deep and affecting that it moves to tears the wife's lovely cousin, a poetess, who is living with them. To the very end of the book the wife and her husband adore each other. This does not prevent, however, the husband from falling passionately in love with the cousin also. The author explains this very simply: "It has been said over and over again that a man cannot love two women simultaneously. If this is so, then Stephen Warren was the exception which proves the rule." The cousin fully returns the husband's love. But she also loves the other woman deeply, and from a sense of duty to her determines to go away and forget, if she can, the guilty love she feels. To her amazement and that of the husband, the wife, whose acute intuition has kept her informed of the love between her husband and her cousin, tells them both that she approves of

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their love affair and loves them both all the more for it. The wife dies of an unsuccessful operation. The widower, after a decent period of intense grief, comes to the poetess and asks her to marry him, as their love for each is stronger than ever. To his great surprise, the poetess refuses, saying: "I can't take you away from her," referring to his dead wife. "If Camille [the wife] had remained with us, I—I—things would have remained as they were, . . ." she explains. "She understood, and it did not hurt her. . . . But now she cannot tell us what she thinks. Now she may feel differently. . . . I loved her so. I can't, oh, Stephen, I can't run the risk of hurting Camille's soul!"

The Toe, and Other Tales. By Alexander Harvey. New York: Mitchell Kennerley.

In his prefatory note of acknowledgment the author says that he is especially grateful to the editor of the St. Louis *Mirror* for accepting "The Toe" when "leading New York magazines refused it." We gather that the joke is supposed to be on the leading New York magazines. He also thanks the editors of such publications as *The Smart Set* and *Town Topics* for using some of these stories, and expresses his great indebtedness to Mr. George Sylvester Viereck "for encouragement and sympathetic criticism." We mention this note by way of permitting Mr. Harvey to place himself. His stories have the qualities esteemed by a certain group of writers in New York. There is a good deal of straining after novelty of theme, and a kind of eroticism prepared for a special audience of bachelors—lingerie eroticism, it may be called. Two of the tales, indeed—"The Toe" and "Frou-Frou"—are elaborate rhapsodies on the beautiful theme of female underclothing.

SOURCES OF HISTORY.

English Historical Literature in the Fifteenth Century. By C. L. Kingsford. New York: Oxford University Press. $5 net.

Mr. Kingsford's ability as an historical critic with no mean powers of generalization has been established by his editions of the "London Chronicles," Stow's "Survey," and his studies of the Crusades and of Henry V.

The fifteenth century is lacking in the unity and concentration of purpose which gives so much interest to the Angevin and Tudor periods. The old order of society was breaking up in the transition from mediæval to modern England. The resulting confusion and decay render the age difficult to interpret; but the creative forces were at work which were to make the Tudor period memorable in history. These characteristics of the fifteenth century are clearly reflected in the pages of contemporary histories. In the early years of the century the historical form was still the Latin chronicle, dry and annalistic, written by and for persons whose experience did not extend far beyond the confines of the monastery. They show mediæval historiography in the last stages of decay. The French wars, the rapid development of trade and commerce, the growth of civic life, and the introduction of the New Learning from Italy resulted in the awakening of national consciousness, in the spread of education, and in the rise of a new type of history, written in English instead of Latin. The "London Chronicles," the chief historical source of this period, were written for men of affairs. Interspersed with accounts of national events is a wealth of local allusions, such as elections, fires, prices, and commercial transactions. This element of utility led Nash in the following century to make the scarcely just criticism that the writers were "lay chronographers that wrote of nothing but of Mayors and Sheriffs and the dere yere and the great frost." The "Brut," the most popular and widely spread history of the time, was written to be read for pleasure. The mere love of a good story is well expressed in the naïve remark by Caxton, one of the later compilers: "Yf I could have founden moo storyes I wold have sette in hit moo." Mr. Kingsford laments the disrepute into which the "Brut" has fallen among modern historians, for it faithfully reflects popular opinion on national events and policies. Artless and crude as these early productions in English are, they reveal a new interest in national affairs by the middle classes. Through the pages of Hall, Stow, Holinshed, and particularly Shakespeare, they fixed for centuries the popular conceptions of this period.

Verse was a natural medium of popular narrative, political controversy, and satire. Such lines as the following, written in the early part of the century, are significant:

> For common is the fairest flour
> That euer God sette on erthely crown.

Poems like the "Libel of English Policy," which foreshadowed the Mercantile System, not only gave expression to the opinions of the commercial classes, but undoubtedly exerted a powerful influence upon national policies.

Under the influence of national consciousness and the spread of learning a new era in historical writing had dawned by the opening of the sixteenth century. The histories were then written in the language of the people, from a national standpoint, with a conscious effort to handle the material critically and to give a well reasoned account. Sir Thomas More's "History of Richard III," "the first historical work of outstanding literary merit in the English language," exhibits the strongest possible contrast to the Latin chronicles with which the fifteenth century opened. "Viewed in this light," Mr. Kingsford says, "English historical literature in the fifteenth century has a real unity. In no period of equal length can we trace a development of such great importance."

Most of the sources discussed have appeared in the Rolls Series, in the Camden Society Publications, or in separate volumes. Many of the early editions, particularly those of Riley, Hearne, and Giles, are faulty, and have been severely criticised in recent years. Mr. Kingsford has provided in convenient form the results of later investigations, and by a careful study of internal evidence and a comparison of the original manuscripts has offered many original suggestions. While too minute and technical to be discussed in this review, these should be carefully weighed by future students working in this period. He has discussed several sources hitherto unpublished and has printed in a long appendix portions of more than a score of them. The volume is furnished with a full index and a useful bibliography of printed and manuscript sources.

As an evaluation of historical material along lines somewhat more restricted than Molinier's "Les Sources de l'histoire de France," the work is admirable. Though the reader frequently feels that Mr. Kingsford is overstraining the theme of literary development in a conscious effort to appeal to a wider circle, the volume will nevertheless prove valuable to the students of Shakespeare and sixteenth-century literature in general, for it traces to their origin many of the tales preserved in the literature of that period. Mr. Kingsford has made a contribution of historical and literary significance in tracing back many of the legends of Henry V to the middle of the fifteenth century, to a work now lost which purported to be "Reminiscences of the Earl of Ormonde," who accompanied the King into France. In the historical plays of Shakespeare he observes a remarkable perception of the unity of the fifteenth century which is too often overlooked: "The downfall of Richard II, the glories of Henry V, the long struggle of Lancaster and York ending in the happy union of the rival houses, were all stages in the preparation for a greater Age."

L'Anabase de Xénophon, avec un Commentaire historique et militaire. By Col. Arthur Boucher. 48 maps and plans; 400 pages folio text. Paris: Berger-Levrault. 25 francs.

In the days of the American small college three books of Xenophon's "Ana-

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basis" were universally required in the quantum of Greek which was thought essential to a liberal education. Alexander the Great learned the art of war in Xenophon. Napoleon quoted him. Gen. Février, who has been the great tactician of the French army in recent years, replied to questions: "You will find it in Xenophon—the only master I have had." After so many centuries, professors who follow campaigns in documents have begun to depreciate the historical and military value of the "Anabasis," following, perhaps, Col. Mure's suspicion that "the author, without fear of contradiction, seeing that all the main actors were now dead or scattered, could assume an importance quite beyond that warranted by the real facts" (Mahaffy). The German General von Hoffmeister—"Durch Armenien und der Zug Xenophons" (Leipzig, 1911)—has, in his turn, gone over a part of the line of retreat of the Ten Thousand and tried to upset many received interpretations. What with old and new college students, with military students desirous of going through a praxis followed by leaders of armies for more than two thousand years, with readers of history who wish to know if Grote's admiration of Xenophon is justified, with those who are interested in countries which Turkey's disasters are opening at last, this very painstaking translation and commentary of a superior French officer, already known for his studies of Greek tactics and German strategics, should not lack a public. For the Greek professor, for the reference table of students even not advanced, it is a godsend.

In the minute introduction there is a statement of the historical questions involved, with a table of the marches from place to place, day by day, in parasangs and kilometres. Besides the aid furnished by geographers like Richard Kiepert and Felix Oswald, by men on the ground, like Prince Engalitscheff and the Governor-General of Erivan, our commentator has had the unique collaboration of a Dominican missionary who—the first in modern times—has made reconnoissances of the difficult mountain region in what is still unknown Turkey. A complete analysis follows of military questions exemplified in Xenophon's account and their use in modern manœuvres.

The translation (the Greek text is not given) has been made in literal and very readable French, with particular reference to military exactness. Each chapter, according to the divisions of the Teubner edition revised by Gemoll, is followed by its commentary. Thus, as a sample of its richness and completeness, the second chapter is accompanied by an analysis of the Greek forces; a map with description of the route and a road-sketch from Ramsay; a valuation of the length of the parasang in Xenophon and Herodotus, compared with actual measurements in kilometres; days' marches estimated by time; a table of the troops under review in separate divisions by commanders; a full explanation of the military organization of the Greeks and their formation in battle; and their order of encampment with the Persian troops of Cyrus, with plan. Perhaps not a single point of the text of Xenophon, which is a journal of march as well as a history, is neglected, down to the point where the retreating Greeks take to the sea, which calls forth an explanation of "ships in use at the time of the Ten Thousand." The conclusion is:

> The "Anabasis" is a veritable monument from the historical and geographical point of view;
>
> It is also one of the most beautiful and exact books of war left us by past centuries;
>
> And it is one which men of war, especially to-day, have most interest to meditate upon and to apply its teachings.

Notes

Houghton Mifflin Co. is about to issue a guide-book of Japan by T. Philip Terry.

Included in Henry Holt's early spring list of announcements are the following: "When Ghost Meets Ghost," by William De Morgan; "Napoleon," by H. A. L. Fisher; "English Literature, a Survey from Chaucer to the Present Day," by G. H. Mair; "Clay and Fire," a discussion of the spiritual versus the material life, by L. W. Crippen; "Six Years a Wanderer," by A. Loton Ridger; and the following additions to the Home University Library; "Chaucer and his Time," by G. E. Hadow; "Common Sense in Law," by P. Vinogradoff; "Latin America," by William R. Shepherd, and "Unemployment," by A. C. Pigou.

"Silent Sam," a book of short stories by Harvey J. O'Higgins, is announced by the Century Company for publication next month.

"The New Ideals in the Gospel," announced by Dutton, is an English version of a book by Dr. Hermann Schnell.

Mr. Frederic Mathews is publishing, through Doubleday, Page & Co., "Taxation and the Distribution of Wealth."

Twelve volumes are now ready in the Wayfarers' Library, a new series planned by Messrs. Dent, of London. The following are the headings under which the books are classified: Romance and Adventure, Social and Domestic Fiction, Historical Fiction, Humour, Belles-Lettres and Essays, and The Open Air.

A translation has been made by Mr. C. K. Ogden of Dr. Kerschensteiner's book on "The Schools and the Nation," and for this edition Lord Haldane has written a preface. The work will be issued shortly by Macmillan.

The same house has in preparation a second part of Dr. Arthur S. Way's translation of the works of Sophocles into English verse.

Among the books which Little, Brown & Company will bring out the middle of next month are: "Sunshine Jane," by Anne Warner (the late Mrs. French); "The Substance of His House," by Ruth Holt Boucicault, and "Success at Golf," the last a volume which is prefaced by John G. Anderson, and to which chapters are contributed by Harry Vardon, Alexander Herd, George Duncan, Wilfrid Reid, Lawrence Ayton, and Francis Ouimet.

Capt. R. B. Otter-Barry and Mr. Perry-Ayscough, of the Chinese postal service, have collaborated in a book entitled "With the Russians in Mongolia," which Lane will publish at an early date.

Spring publications of McBride, Nast & Company include the following miscellaneous volumes: "Panama: Its Creation, Destruction, and Resurrection," by Philippe Bunau-Varilla; "The Political Shame of Mexico," by Edward I. Bell; "How France Is Governed," by Raymond Poincaré; "Lord London, a Tale of Achievement," by Keble Howard; "The Blue Buckle," by William Hamilton Osborne; "The White Gate," by Warwick Deeping; "Ashes of Vengeance," by H. B. Somerville; "Modern City Planning and Maintenance," by Frank Koester; "The Fairies—Here and Now," by S. R. Littlewood; "A Book of Inscriptions," by Esther Mason; "Syria, the Land of Lebanon," by Lewis Gaston Leary; "A Little Book of Killarney and Southern Ireland," by Robert Medill; "Quiet Roads and Sleepy Villages," by Allen Fea; "Caravanning and Camping Out," by J. Harris Stone; "Irish Land and Irish Liberty," by Michael J. F. McCarthy; "Training the Dog," by Robert S. Lemmon; "Cecil Rhodes: The Man and His Work," by Gordon Le Sueur; "The Autobiography of Charlotte Amelie, Princess of Aldenburg (1652-1732)," translated and edited by her descendant, Mrs. Aubrey Le Blond, and "The Antarctic Penguins," by G. Murray Levick, member of the scientific staff of the Scott Antarctic Expedition.

Wanderings in Tunisia and Tripoli are described in an interesting way by Mr. Frank E. Johnson in the *National Geographic Magazine* for January. He was able to get into close touch with the people so that his account of them is more real and vivid than that of the ordinary traveller. The desert even is made attractive. "Heat, thirst, and danger are forgotten in the glorious landscape, with its iridescent colors." An interesting incident was the visit to a wonderfully productive date plantation, the French owner of which assured him that he attributed "a great part of his success to the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C." The 114 illustrations add much to the interest of the article, and to many the remarkable beauty of the women, laden with ornaments, will be a revelation.

"Who's Who, 1914," comes to us from Macmillans, certainly, now as always, one of the most welcome books of the year. The present issue extends to above two thousand pages, and at this annual rate of growth the volume will soon become inconveniently bulky. Unlike the American and other dictionaries of the kind, the English "Who's Who" is not confined to citizens of one land, but includes famous names from all over the world.

In his "Famous Houses and Literary Shrines of London," reviewed in the *Nation* of October 3, 1912, A. St. John Adcock wrote

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pleasantly of the buildings in London associated with the names of men and women who have left their mark on letters. His latest volume, "The Booklover's London" (Macmillan), is in a measure the complement of the former one. Here he deals not with authors, but with their creations, and the London that he shows us is peopled with the figures that walk through the pages of the imaginative literature the scenes of which are laid in the city. Here we come to Pie Corner in Smithfield, where poor Falstaff was arrested at the instance of Mistress Quickley; or we watch the Canterbury pilgrims as they sally forth from the Tabard Inn; or we rebuild the walls of old Newgate and see the shivering form of Fagin as the poor wretch huddled sleepless through his last night listening for the clock to boom out the inexorable hours, while outside, in view of the old inn that still stands, workmen were busy erecting the gallows and throwing black painted barriers across the road to keep back the curious crowds. But when we come to Dickens quotation ceases to be possible. London is pervaded with his characters, and there is scarcely a page of Mr. Adcock's book in which we are not invited to visit some scene or another which Dickens has immortalized. Indeed, if we felt inclined to criticise so pardonable an enthusiasm, we might assert that the figure of Dickens looms unduly large in these pages, sometimes to the exclusion of others whose claims to a share of the scene are equally just.

But Mr. Adcock has an ingenuous way of disarming criticism. He has attempted, he tells us, nothing in the way of research, and declares that "as a fairly miscellaneous reader, my plan has been simply to select a route and to go along it gossiping of what memories I have of the imaginary men and women connected with the places we pass by the way." Had he selected any other method the result might have been a more complete, possibly even a more scholarly, work, but it is doubtful whether it would not have lost in charm more than it might have gained in completeness. As it is, besides having written a very delightful book, Mr. Adcock has demonstrated that if there be nothing new under the sun there is also nothing so old that it cannot be viewed from a fresh angle, for we fancy he is correct in the claim put forth in his preface that there does not exist "any book on a large scale devoted to London's associations with the imaginary folk of the novelists and dramatists—with those familiar citizens who are literally free of the city and live where they will in it unfretted by landlords or tax-collectors, and who, having once walked into one or another of its streets through certain books, are walking in it always for whoever actually knows London."

In "A Short History of English Liberalism" (Putnam) Mr. W. Lyon Blease makes a vigorous and idealistic, but not unbiassed, analysis of English politics, foreign and domestic, during the last 150 years. His book is not so much a history of events as a reading of them in the light of his own conception of Liberalism. For him Liberalism is not the legislative record of the Liberal Party nor the policy of the Liberal Government. Far from it. "The failure of the [Asquith] Government to deal liberally with this [suffrage] question has been an interesting revelation of the incompleteness of self-styled Liberalism"—a display of "Toryism, in matters of sex, as complete as that of Castlereagh." In Foreign Affairs Sir Edward Grey, by his support of France in Morocco and of Russia in Persia, has sadly fallen away from Gladstonian principles, and brought dismay and disgust to Liberals like Mr. Blease. Liberalism and the deeds of so-called Liberal ministers are unfortunately too often widely divergent. Liberalism, according to the author's conception of it, is not a policy, but a habit of mind. The Liberal is the man who looks upon each of his fellows as of equal worth with himself and as entitled to equal opportunities with himself for self-expression and self-development. To Mr. Blease's Liberal, "all artificial conditions which prevent or hinder growth are perpetually obnoxious. Upon class distinctions in society, privileges of sex, rank, wealth, or creed, he wages unceasing war." In foreign policy the Liberal extends his recognition of the equal worth of individuals within the nation to a recognition of the equal worth of all nations; and nations in their dealings with one another are to be bound by the same moral rules as individuals.

The antithesis of Liberalism is egoism, imperialism, and "Toryism." With this conception of Liberalism as a touchstone, Mr. Blease tests the legislation and foreign policy of England since 1760 and deals out praise or blame according as Liberalism finds expression or not in the acts of Ministers. The Younger Pitt "was one of the greatest politicians and one of the worst statesmen England has ever had. The Pilot who weathered the storm flung all the cargo out of the ship, and steered from the high seas into dangerous shallows, from some of which she has not yet escaped." "Peel's most conspicuous virtue was his incapacity to make permanent resistance to sound argument." Cobden, Bright, and Gladstone are naturally the shining lights. "Lord Rosebery, a splendid orator, could never lead the people, because he could never understand them." Mr. Asquith, in view of his attitude on equal suffrage, is a man of little imagination:

It is the large imagination, ever ranging beyond the bounds of the practicable and the expedient, and detecting in the obscurity of chaos the currents of new social forces, which distinguishes the greatest statesmen from those who are merely great. Peel had it, though in him it was often blind and groping. Disraeli had it, though spoilt by his mean and tawdry ideals. Gladstone had it, in full measure, and so, with less practical gifts, had Campbell-Bannerman. The mantle of leadership descended in 1908 upon the shoulders of a man who had all the qualities of a great leader except the greatest of all.

Mr. Blease's volume is not so much a history of Liberalism as a history of the partial realization of Liberalism in legislation and foreign policy. For the Liberalism of his conception was no historical evolution; it is fixed and eternal; it does not develop by a process of evolution like the programme of a political party, changing from age to age. It embodies many of the same eternal verities and aspirations, minus the singing, which characterized the Progressive movement in our last Presidential campaign. The author's closing pages are devoted to a vehement refutation of some of the anti-suffrage arguments and to a fierce denunciation of forcible feeding; in fact, his whole book is incidentally used as a vehicle for helping forward the cause in behalf of which he has already written "The Emancipation of Women" and "Political Prisoners."

In "Along France's River of Romance" (McBride), Douglas Goldring has most happily thrown his guidebook conscience, if he ever possessed any, to the winds, and as a result has produced a readable book of travel in the Loire district of France. When, after some strenuous climbing, he stood looking at the source of the Loire high up among the peaks of the Cevennes, the determination came upon him to follow the river along the whole of the six hundred and twenty-five miles of its course to St. Nazaire, where it empties itself into the Atlantic. The present volume is an account of the journey, on which he set out with a mind open to impressions of all sorts and a heart full of good fellowship for any chance companions of the way. Mr. Goldring's style is quite refreshing in its buoyancy; there is in it something of the gypsy zest for life, a Borrovian curiosity about men and things without Borrow's introspection. And so the trivial adventures of the road become entertaining for the reader simply because the author himself was so hugely entertained by them. The descriptive passages stimulate instead, as so often happens, of wearying the attention. Mr. Goldring describes only what he wishes to describe, and gives historical reminiscences only when they happen to interest him personally. He is familiar with the literature of his subject, and where a piece of descriptive or historical writing has caught his fancy he inserts it bodily in his pages. He has also a particularly pleasing habit of quoting freely chansonettes, many of them picked up by ear and remembered, from the folk poetry of the land. No credit is assigned for the illustrations, in color and in black and white, which add to the attractiveness of the book.

"Sidelights" (Scribner), by Lady Blennerhassett, is a collection of leisurely, well-informed essays on various historical and biographical subjects. Though the papers are translated, rather heavily, from the German, the type of work is much that of the British quarterlies. The siege of Paris, 1590; Taine's Study of Napoleon; Count Reinhard, a German in the service of the French; Marco Minghetti and the Risorgimento, are the topics involving large historic perspectives. Lady Blennerhassett handles these matters with dignity and fairness. Of the purely biographical studies, Chateaubriand is perhaps the best, though an interesting train of reminiscence is started in Claude Fauriel's Correspondence with Mary Clarke (Mme. Mohl), while in the study of Marie Bashkirtseff a very modern case is analyzed. To all these subjects the author brings a well-stored mind and broad sympathies which never degenerate into sentimentality. It is not a book to read in the train, but attractive to a certain type of reader precisely for its humane gravity.

Since writing his "Cities of Umbria" in 1904, Edward Hutton has dealt successively with Northern and Southern Tuscany, Rome, Venice, and the cities of Lombardy. In "The Cities of Romagna and the Marches" (Mac-

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millan), the eighth of the series, he takes a region comparatively little known. We do not always agree with his judgments, which are often almost entirely subjective, and, like the rest of us, he has his likes and dislikes. Thus the splendid bustle and traffic of Ancona only move him to bewail "the appalling noise and vulgarity they call civilization"; he labels the decisive battle of Castelfidardo "a pathetic and miserable affair, which every other people would have been glad to forget"; and, when speaking of the Pineta at Ravenna, though he recalls Dante, Boccaccio, and Byron, he says no word of Garibaldi. Yet "Garibaldi's hut" is still to be seen there, a small museum in the wilderness; and, for some of us at any rate, Garibaldi is well nigh as stimulating a memory as Italy can provide. If, however, Mr. Hutton is strangely unappreciative of United Italy and the splendid, steadfast advance of the modern Italian nation, he loves the Italy of his dreams; he is a master of words, and he has given us a book to be grateful for. More than two score towns and villages are separately dealt with, historically, informatively, and impressionistically, and there is never a dull word in the whole volume. It is, we think, the best of all the series, and our author is to be congratulated on having produced a work which is at once learned and beautiful. No traveller who intends to visit Romagna or the Marches can possibly do without it.

Few men of equal prominence are less well known than the central figure of Vernon Staley's monograph "The Life and Times of Gilbert Sheldon" (Milwaukee: The Young Churchman Co.). Born in 1598 and educated for the church, he was Fellow of All Souls' College, chaplain to Charles I, and rector of Ickford before the outbreak of the Civil War. For his loyalty to king and church he suffered during the Commonwealth and was rewarded after the Restoration. In 1660 he was made Bishop of London, and in 1663 Archbishop of Canterbury. He died in 1677. A man of high character, Sheldon did his duty as he saw it without regard to consequences, whether it were a matter of standing out against the powerful Laud, or following the Stuarts into exile, or dispossessing the Presbyterian clergy, or rebuking Charles II for immorality, or braving death in the plague. His talent took a practical turn; he was a man of affairs whose excellent business and administrative capacity proved useful in reorganizing the church after the Restoration; but he seems to have had neither great intellectual power, nor the gift of speech, nor literary ability, nor any compelling spiritual or emotional fervor. A dull sermon, delivered before Charles II at Whitehall in 1660, is the sum of his published literary remains. He made some enemies and apparently but few devoted friends; and hitherto he has had no biographer. Mr. Staley is the present rector of Ickford, and he has been inspired to write this work apparently because Sheldon was once his predecessor. He has aimed "to clear this great servant of the English Church from obloquy, and to rehabilitate him in his true historical setting." Professor Burrows, in his "Worthies of All Souls," has already vindicated Sheldon, as Mr. Staley admits. To "rehabilitate him in his true historical setting," is a work well worth doing; but it cannot be said that Mr. Staley has done that. It is to be feared that he has neither sufficient knowledge of the seventeenth century, nor the requisite insight into history and character, nor the desired open-mindedness, to accomplish so difficult a task. What we should most wish to have is a careful study of Sheldon's work in reorganizing the church after the return of the Stuarts. The material for such a study is mainly in the Clarendon and Sheldon papers in the Bodleian Library. But there is little evidence that Mr. Staley has made particular use of these sources. In fact, there is little to be learned from the present biography which has not already been presented by Professor Burrows, or in the brief account in the Dictionary of National Biography.

In "Famous Modern Battles" (Small, Maynard & Co.), A. Hilliard Atteridge describes in a popular and readable manner, and with commendable accuracy of detail, fifteen battles of the last sixty years. The author has chosen to arrange them in chronological order, with the idea probably that such an arrangement will best reveal the changes which have occurred in the character of military operations during the last half-century. And in the end this purpose is attained in some respects, although it is a little disconcerting at first to jump from Solferino to Chancellorsville and from Gettysburg to Sadowa. The first Napoleon found it essential to stand where he could see the whole field of battle at a glance; and this was still possible and desirable in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. But one has only to contrast Louis Napoleon, overlooking the Austrian army at Solferino from the bell tower at Castiglione, with Oyama, sitting in a room many miles from the field of Mukden, poring over maps and charts, and directing his forces by telephone and telegraph, to be aware that the modern commander has a more complex problem to solve and solves it in another manner than his predecessors. These external changes, which the author has noted, are, however, less important than certain less obvious changes in training and discipline which have been brought about by new conditions. The commander who directs the operation of 300,000 men dispersed over eighty miles of territory in a battle lasting a week cannot assume responsibility for every important move. And therefore an effective army is one in which the old automatism of the soldier has been replaced by a greater degree of intelligence and initiative on the part of subordinate officers, and even of men in the ranks. "We are all agreed," says Sir Frederick Maurice, "that this absence of control from above must be the normal experience of present-day war. We are seeking to combat it by developing the initiative and resourcefulness of all subordinates, each in his proper sphere, so that each may learn to act intelligently in default of orders from above." This lesson was first learned by the Germans in the wars of 1866 and 1870. Intelligent training combined with an interest in the cause is thus of much greater importance to-day, in comparison with mere "slavish discipline" and the hardened habit of literal obedience to orders, than formerly—a fact which was strongly enforced by the experience of the Russo-Japanese war, and the recent war in the Balkans. Mr. Atteridge's general conclusion that "war, if more terrible, is also far less frequent" now than it used to be, may well be questioned. In some respects it is more terrible, in others much less. During the last sixty years there have been twelve wars, and during the last twenty years there have been six—short wars they were, but frequent enough, and stupid enough, most of them, in all conscience.

When Baron de Pöllnitz died, June 23, 1775, Voltaire wrote to Frederick, "Well, Sire, Baron de Pöllnitz is dead; he also wrote." And Frederick replied: "He did some cheating even the day he died, that it might be said he died as he lived. No one regrets him but his creditors." The best thing the Baron ever did was to write his Memoirs; and these, together with his letters, Mrs. Edith E. Cuthell has made the substance, by means of long quotations strung together by chatty comment, of two thick volumes under the title of "A Vagabond Courtier" (Brentano's). The title is well chosen. Pöllnitz was a clever adventurer, who lived a long time and had a varied experience. He saw some military service in the war of the Spanish Succession, but spent most of his life drifting from court to court seeking favor and money. He never got a great deal of either, but he came into contact, in the endeavor, with many famous persons. He was without convictions or honor; lied freely; never paid his debts if it could be avoided; changed his religion as often as convenient. An anecdote which the author quotes from Thiébault gives the measure of the man and indicates the manner in which he was regarded by people of intelligence generally. Having asked Frederick the Great for some position, the King told him that if he were only a Catholic there might be a canonry for him. That very evening Pöllnitz abjured his faith, and next morning came running to the King. "I am really dreadfully sorry," said Frederick, "but this morning I gave away the canonry which I spoke to you about. This is a cruel contretemps! But how could I guess that you were so willing to change your religion yet again? What can I do? Ah! I remember that I have still a rabbi's post to give away. Have yourself made a Jew, and I will promise it to you." The Memoirs of such a man are not to be relied upon for facts or judgments. But they are lively and interesting, and of some value for the descriptions of famous persons which they contain, and as an illustration of the manners and morals of the century.

"In Byways of Scottish History" (Scribner), by Louis A. Barbé, is a collection of twenty essays, short for the most part, dealing with various aspects of Scottish history and literature, mainly in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, which one finds little mention of in ordinary histories. The author has lived long in Scotland, is familiar with its traditions, and knows its people well. He writes with sympathy, but without prejudice, and his scholarship, so far as the reviewer can judge, is thorough. The first six essays deal with Queen Mary, with her manner and personality, and with the four maids of honor—the four Marys of history, who were not quite the same as the ballad has it, "Marie Seaton and Marie Beaton and Marie Carmichael and me." The Song of Mary Stuart, Maister Randolphe's

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Fantasie, Edinburgh and her Patron Saint, James VI as Statesman and Poet, The Story of a Ballad—"Kinmont Willie"—are the titles of other studies. The last and longest essay is English rather than Scottish in its interest. It is an historical sketch of the myth, widely believed on the Continent during the Middle Ages, that all Englishmen had tails. Most students of early English will be familiar with the explanation of the legend as it is given in Layamon's "Brut." But the reproach finds constant expression in ballad literature, and there are other explanations of the origin of the belief than that in Layamon, all of which are discussed by Mr. Barbé. Military historians will be interested in the essay on the Old Scottish Army, and the student of towns in the short essay on Riotous Glasgow.

"The Story of Rome" (Stokes), by Mary Macgregor, an English writer, is a beautifully printed and illustrated volume, intended for boys and girls. One dislikes to discourage any sincere effort to maintain an interest in ancient Rome, but in this case we are not convinced that the plan has been very well considered. In expression, there has been a very manifest effort to get down to the level of children, and this has been done at a sacrifice of such qualities as would make the book enjoyable to older readers as well. Again, the story suffers from its unsuccessful handling of legends included for the sake of completeness, but distorted out of regard for the age of the intended reader. Even the most pronounced devotee of Greek and Roman studies may well doubt whether children too young to profit by a more virile handling of such a subject have any real need of a Story of Rome drawn out to the length of more than four hundred pages. A good collection of individual stories from this field, of which there are a number already in existence, seems more likely to accomplish the end desired.

"Deliver us from our friends" is still a useful prayer, not heard as often as it should be. Dr. W. J. Holland, the director of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, who has just published "To the River Plate and Back" (Putnam), admits in his preface that it "may appear to be a daring act" for him to add another tale to the many that have been told by travellers. "At first I hesitated, but finally yielded to the persuasions of certain of my friends." It is to be hoped that these friends will be satisfied with the product of their enthusiasm. Attractive in appearance, and fully illustrated with excellent pictures, the volume makes a good impression, and the sub-title, "The Narrative of a Scientific Mission to South America, with Observations upon Things Seen and Suggested," promises an unusual book. But the "scientific mission" consisted in taking a cast of the skeleton of that gigantic prehistoric animal, the Diplodocus Carnegiei, from Pittsburgh to the La Plata Museum. Similar casts had already been presented by Mr. Carnegie to various European museums, and Dr. Holland deserves great credit for his skill in accomplishing this difficult feat. Naturally, in going to Argentina on this undertaking, the author met the local scientific authorities, and his experiences are particularly interesting from the zoölogist's point of view. Unfortunately, the important scientific observations constitute a relatively small part of a fairly large book. Furthermore, in his observations on Argentina, where the author comes into competition with such keen analysts as Clemenceau and Bryce, and such painstaking writers as Koebel, Hirst, and Winter, he is at too great a disadvantage; especially as he gives no evidence of having fitted himself by reading or study to understand the people he met. If Dr. Holland had cut out two-thirds of the book, including familiar topics already better done elsewhere, and most of the trifling personal details, his book, even though smaller, cheaper, and less striking, would have been far more acceptable.

George Spring Merriam, a son of one of the brothers who founded the company which has long published Webster's Dictionary, died in Springfield, Mass., on Thursday, aged seventy-one. He was born in Springfield, in 1843, graduated from Yale in 1864, and, after studying theology, turned to literary work. For five years, from 1870, he was editor of the *Christian Union*, now the *Outlook*, under Henry Ward Beecher. Since 1875 he had lived in Springfield. Perhaps his best-known book is "Life and Times of Samuel Bowles," in two volumes, published in 1885. He was the author also of "The Negro and the Nation," "The Man of To-day," and several other books.

Science

A Review of the Primates. By Daniel Giraud Elliot. 3 volumes. New York: Published by the American Museum of Natural History.

The wonderful vigor which has always characterized the production of the splendid series of monographs of Dr. Elliot is fully sustained in the present elaborate work, in three quarto volumes, and we can well believe that it represents five years of continuous study. A part of the preface reads:

For over a century the Primates have been a subject of careful study by naturalists of all lands, some most eminent zoologists having devoted their investigations to them almost exclusively, and, consequently, the types of the many species were scattered throughout the various museums of the world. To examine and compare these important examples was a necessity, for, without a thorough knowledge of their characteristics, no satisfactory progress toward the solution of their proper scientific standing could be reached. With representatives of the Primates, either from the Eastern or Western Hemisphere, the museums of the United States were but poorly provided, and a reliance for the material to prosecute the work was therefore to be placed upon the collections contained in European museums and zoölogical gardens, and also in those of Eastern lands. Consequently, the author was obliged to visit all these various institutions and study their collections. Twice were the museums of England and the Continent visited, and many months passed each time examining the collections, and during a journey around the world the museums and gardens of the Far East were also visited and their collections carefully studied. The author has seen and taken a description of nearly all the types of the primates extant in the world to-day, and there is not a collection of these animals of any importance existing at the present time with which he is not familiar.

Dr. Elliot has gathered together all the results of study of past and present workers in this field, thus obviating the first two difficulties, and by means of more than one hundred photographic plates of skulls, giving lateral, frontal, ventral, and dorsal views, the close student of the monkeys has all the world's types, as it were, brought to him. The value of these plates cannot be overestimated, and the work would be a notable one were it merely a portfolio of them. This feature of illustration is all the more fortunate as Dr. Elliot gives little or no attention in the text to osteological or dental characters. The author's presentation of this unexcelled series, each plate significant of new striking facts, together with his complete failure to utilize them, almost parallels the great unconscious contributions which Agassiz made to the theory of evolution, believing all the while in special creation.

The method of treatment of each member of the order is best told in the author's own words:

First, a general review is held of the genus accepted, the type fixed, and description given; then remarks are made on the appearance and general habits of the species the genus contains, followed by a review of the literature and the geographical distribution, and a key by means of which it is possible that all the species of that particular genus may be recognized. Then each species is taken up in regular sequence, its synonymy given, and the type, locality, and geographical distribution recorded; the present location of the type, if existing, is then told, after which the peculiar characters of the species, if it possesses any, are given, followed by such remarks as may be necessary upon the relationship the species under review may have with some other in the genus; then a full description and measurements of the type, if possible, concluding with an account of the habits, so far as they may be unquestionably known.

More than one hundred pages of introduction deal with classification, variation, and geographical distribution, a chronological list of generic names proposed and a synopsis of the classification adopted. The repeating of the distribution first in running text and then linearly seems rather needless. In the 1,351 quarto pages, 2 suborders, 8 families, 55 genera, and 588 species and subspecies are dealt with. The recognition of subgenera is a distinct advance in the classification of these animals. As to nomenclature, Dr. Elliot has the courage of his convictions and binds him-

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self uncompromisingly by the law of priority. One of the many most startling results is the removal of the name *Simia* from the orangs or chimpanzees to the Barbary ape. The new shifting of titles has resulted, in the case of the orang and chimpanzee, in the alliterative names *Pongo* and *Pan*, respectively. The curiously illogical working of the mind in modern nomenclatural opinions is shown by Dr. Elliot in his custom of emending all names which do not conform strictly with etymological principles. This arbitrary ruling, resulting in changes such as *Ateles* to *Ateleus*, and *Lepilemur* to *Lepidolemur*, would seem to be foreign to a mind willing to accept priority at any cost. Greater good would have resulted from a more careful editing of the author's own Greek. This strongly emphasized personal attitude characterizes the entire work, thereby both strengthening its value and narrowing its field. The most severe criticism of the routine specific treatment is the paucity of life histories. This phase is one which is becoming constantly more important, and the approaching extinction of many of the primates makes its neglect all the more lamentable.

Dr. Elliot has certainly succeeded in the preparation of an unequalled "Review" of this phylum. But as a monographic treatment, in the widest sense of the word, one finds defects. As the subject deals solely with living forms, without reference to fossil primates or man, it is guided by no evolutionary principles whatever. The extent to which the classification is wholly innocent of phylogenetic guidance is shown throughout the three volumes. The very first species, the aye-aye, is entirely separated from the lemurs, and takes rank with *Tarsius*, whereas it is well known that the former is only a specialized lemur. Owing to the prominence given to superficial characters, the ideas of classification, even of the living forms dealt with, are at times almost Cuvierian. A good example of this is the sentence on page xxi, "It is a moot point with some whether the Lemurs should be considered members of the order, having any rank whatever within it, as about the only claim they have to the position is the possession of the opposable great toe, which, however, is also found in a species of an altogether different order, the Opossum of the Carnivores. But, no matter how slight may be the pretensions of the Lemurs for admission to the ranks of the primates, yet, by the almost general acquiescence of mammalogists, they have of late been accepted as occupying a recognizable place in the order."

As a summary of known facts the "Review" is unsurpassed, though the lack of any adequate account of the wild life of the animals and their ecological relations deprives the lay reader of much pleasure in the work and detracts considerably from its value. On the other hand, the superficial character of the technical descriptions and the omission of phylogenetic treatment leaves the field open for a work of real creative matter, making use of all the carefully collated facts which Dr. Elliot has provided. The colored plates are good, the type and paper of the best, and the American Museum is to be thoroughly congratulated on this work published under its auspices.

Prof. J. Arthur Thomson will soon publish, through Holt, "The Wonder of Life," which contains chapters on such topics as Marvels of Instinctive Behavior and The Persistence of Characters.

McBride, Nast & Company have in their list of spring publications the following science books: "Making a Garden of Small Fruits," by F. F. Rockwell; "The Gardener's Pocket Manual," by the same; "The Book of Perennials," by W. A. Vollmer, and "Making Fences, Walls, and Hedges," by W. H. Butterfield.

Sir David Gill, the great Scottish astronomer, died in London on Saturday. He was born in 1843, in Aberdeen, and was educated in the university of that town. Having constructed a private observatory in Aberdeen, he devoted himself to his studies and had attained to something more than local celebrity when he made the acquaintance of the Earl of Crawford, then Lord Lindsay, who was at that time considering the establishment of an observatory at Dunecht, near by. He offered the charge of this to the young astronomer, who accepted it, and directed it from 1873-76, during which time he organized Lord Lindsay's transit of Venus expedition to Mauritius. He also corrected the longitudes of Berlin, Malta, Alexandria, Suez, Aden, Seychelles, Mauritius, and Rodriguez, and measured the base line of the geodetic survey of Egypt, near Cairo, for which he received from the Khedive the third class of the Medjidie. In 1877 he proposed and carried out an expedition to Ascension Island to determine the solar parallax by observations of Mars, and for this he received the gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society and the Valz prize of the Institut de France in 1882. He also organized transit of Venus expeditions in South Africa, and he photographed the Great Comet of 1882. It was he who pointed out the desirability of employing photography for complete cataloguing of stars to any required order of magnitude. He proposed in 1880, organized in 1885, and directed and carried to completion in 1896, the geodetic survey of Natal and Cape Colony, and in 1896 he was sent to Berlin to arrange the details of a boundary survey between British Bechuanaland and German Southwest Africa, a work which was completed under his supervision. In 1897 he organized the geodetic survey of Rhodesia, and in 1898 he erected the large telescope presented to the Cape Observatory. He was knighted in 1900. He received the degree of D.Sc. from Oxford, Dublin, and Cambridge, and he was an officer of the Legion of Honor of France, the Watson gold medallist of the National Academy of Science, Washington, in 1900; a knight of the Prussian Order Pour le Mérite, and the author of many works on astronomical subjects.

Drama

The Century Company will publish next month Prof. Charles Mills Gayley's "Beaumont the Dramatist."

"The Continental Drama of To-day," by Barrett H. Clark, and "Nowadays," a play in three acts, by George Middleton, are announced by Holt.

Paul Hervieu's domestic tragedy, "Le Dédale," which was first produced at the Comédie Française, in 1903, has been put into English by Barrett H. Clark and Lander MacClintock—"The Labyrinth" (Huebsch). Mr. Clark furnishes an introductory sketch of the author, together with a brief bibliography. It must be said that separated from the neat turns of French idiom the play seems theatric. Like the great run of French domestic drama this piece makes an *a priori* demand upon the spectator. He must yield to a conception according to which love may be urged as a supreme excuse for what may be termed casual transgression. For the Frenchman there is magic in the time-honored cry, "C'est plus fort que moi," and he is easily swayed to believe that it is prompted by love and not passion. In the present drama Marianne, having left her husband, who has been unfaithful to her and who has married the object of his passion, is now enamoured of Guillaume, whom she desires to wed. Her father is at length won over to the idea, but the mother, believing divorce impious before God, disapproves, though she makes no open objection, and the wedding is consummated. The heroine has had two blissful years when Max, whose second wife has died in the meantime, demands to see more of his young son by Marianne than she has hitherto permitted. The interview leaves her strangely wrought up. She is next seen at the country home of Max and his mother, whither she has been summoned by the news that the boy has diphtheria. It is, of course, natural that while watching over their child they should feel the force of old associations. But an Anglo-Saxon audience would not view with satisfaction the subsequent hounding of Marianne by Max, nor think tremendously significant her yielding to him when he has cornered her in her bedroom virtually exhausted by loss of sleep. One must keep saying to one's self, "C'est plus fort que moi," in order to stifle the impulse to cry out, "Be a man!" Yet the author has contrived a powerful picture, so far, that is, as to show the ineffaceable inner union of two parents. That this, renewed by the presence of their child at the point of death, should make the woman so far forget herself as to offend against her second husband, whom she adores, is not so evident.

There is decided promise in "The Deadlock," by Margaret Turnbull, which the Drama Producing Company has put upon the stage of Maxine Elliott's Theatre. But the piece is weak dramatically in two respects—first, in its excessive use of improb-

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able coincidence to bring about a particular situation, and, secondly, in its presentation of a problem which could only arise in very rare circumstances, and to which, clearly, there can be no general solution. Here is the plot: Felix Kildeen, destined by his father, a devout Roman Catholic, for the Church, while studying in Europe falls in love with a singer and marries her. Then he has a desperate illness, during which his father gets possession of him and carries him off to America. While he is still on a sick-bed the father sends word of his death to the deserted wife, and, when he recovers, tells him that he is a widower. Believing the lie, Felix takes Holy Orders, and in course of time becomes a devoted and popular priest. Ten years later he is confronted with his wife, now a famous prima donna, and his little son. Explanations follow, and it appears that the pair, separated by an infamous but barely credible deception, love each other as fondly as ever. Several emotional scenes, of indisputable theatrical value, follow. The father, resolute in his bigotry, maintains that the marriage is void, and the child, whom he offers to adopt, illegitimate. The son is frantic, torn by the struggle between conjugal and parental love on the one side, and his sense of clerical and spiritual obligation on the other. The wife, a free-thinker, boldly asserts her legal rights and ridicules the notion that Church dogma can override the authority of the State. Here is a triple controversy which is conducted by the playwright with a strong grasp of character and a keen sense of dramatic effect. Only the manifest artificiality of the scheme prevents the action from being emotionally impressive. Love of the grandchild, in whom he discovers the heir he had longed for, induces the stubborn old grandfather to yield to his daughter-in-law's demand for full recognition, but the priest, faithful to his vows, declares that his future course must be decided by his ecclesiastical superiors. This is a logical and artistic ending—the only one consistent with the author's design and the prescribed character of Felix—but it is also theatrically futile. Moreover, the supposed "deadlock" is not absolute, inasmuch as its validity depends, in this country at any rate, not upon the operation of law, but the workings of the individual conscience. The representation was made notable by the performance of the part of the heroine by Edith Wynne Matthison, which was eminently artistic in its refinement, sincerity, eloquence, dignity, and absence of cheap theatrical exaggeration.

Ben Greet has been invited by the Edwin Booth Theatre Association to become director of the stage and of the School of Acting, which is to be started at once. The theatre will follow. Mr. Greet hopes to raise up a new school of actors from the American universities where material is abundant now that dramatics are often part of the college curriculum. In England he recruited nearly fifty Oxford and Cambridge men and women in ten years, many of whom now occupy prominent places on the English stage. Mr. Greet's experience should make him very valuable to the Association.

"The Poor Little Rich Girl" had a disastrous experience in London. Her career at the New Theatre lasted barely two weeks.

Israel Zangwill's "The Melting Pot" is to have a hearing in England at last, but not in one of the regular theatres. It is to be produced at a special performance by the Play Actors. This will be the first representation of the piece in English in Great Britain, but a Yiddish version of it was played successfully in the East End of London.

The Scottish Repertory Theatre has made a new start at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow, the opening attraction being Mr. Arnold Bennett's comedy, "The Honeymoon." Among other plays arranged for are Monckton Hoff's "The Little Damozel," "The Man of Ideas," by Miles Mallison, and "East is East," by P. E. and G. Logan. Later it is hoped that plays by Sir J. M. Barrie and Bernard Shaw may be presented. Lewis Casson will act as stage director and principal producer, a position he has filled with Miss Horniman's Manchester Repertory Company.

The following communication from Mr. G. S. Street, published in the London newspapers, throws a new light upon the processes of theatrical censorship in England, and partly accounts, perhaps, for some of the extraordinary consequences of it:

I have the permission of the Lord Chamberlain to make a brief statement of fact in regard to the office of examiner of plays. Most of the newspaper comments on my recent appointment, kind and flattering to myself as they were, assumed that I had been made a censor of plays. That is not the case. My senior colleague, Mr. Bendall, and I merely examine and report on plays for the information of the Lord Chamberlain; the granting or withholding of a license is a function of the Lord Chamberlain, assisted by an advisory board, of which we are not part.

Music

Richard Wagner. By John F. Runciman. New York: The Macmillan Co. $3.25 net.

According to Rubinstein, the greatest five composers were Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, Chopin, and Glinka. According to John F. Runciman, the greatest personality amongst all the musicians—indeed, the "greatest man who has yet lived"—was Handel. After him come Gluck and Beethoven; and, finally, Wagner, "whose supreme genius and indomitable perseverance made him either an idol or a terror to all who came in contact with him." In writing a new book on this composer Mr. Runciman has, as he avers, avoided both "preposterous eulogy" on the one hand and "vampire work" on the other; but his foolish remarks on the plot of "Parsifal"—evidently an echo of Huneker and some crazy pamphlets printed in Germany—verge on the latter, while some of his praises of the other operas sound very much like gush, especially as coming from the pen of an English critic noted for his caustic wit and slashing style. One would have supposed that one who so worships Handel would have been impressed above all things by the quasi-religious music of "Parsifal," which has often moved even agnostics to tears; but this music has "no charm" for Mr. Runciman, though he finds in the opera "passages of marvellous loveliness."

This last chapter is an unfortunate blot on what is otherwise an excellent book. It will not appeal to those who wish to read the romantic and tragic story of Wagner's life, for while the main incidents are recorded, it is done in a summary way that does not appeal to the imagination; only eight lines, for instance, being used to tell the thrilling episode of King Ludwig's attempt to find Wagner and bring him to Munich. By such condensation Mr. Runciman succeeded in saving most of his 421 pages for analyses of the operas and comments thereon, which are among the very best that have been made, being intelligent and appreciative without ceasing to be critical. The libretto of the "Flying Dutchman," for example, is pronounced "a manufacture, not, like 'Tristan,' a growth"; but on the whole the opera is assuredly "a great work. . . . Had he not lived to write another note, his memory would live by the 'Dutchman.'" Nevertheless, it is in "Tannhäuser" that "we first find the godlike Wagner hurling his thunderbolts." In the analysis of "Lohengrin" the author sanely rejects the theories of those who search for moral ideas in it. To him it is simply a charming fairy opera.

Mr. Runciman's admiration for "Die Meistersinger," both as a poem and a musical masterwork, is unbounded, and equally great is his enthusiasm for the Nibelung operas as a whole, though he fails to appreciate the grandeur of the third act of "Siegfried," which really overtops everything except the last act of "Götterdämmerung." To him "Tristan and Isolde" is "the finest opera in the world. . . . It is impossible to imagine such a feat ever being done again. Those of us who live on for another five hundred years may see something like it. . . . The breath, the spirit, which is eternal life, is in it, and it can only perish when the human race perishes."

Will any one say after this that the English are unemotional in their attitude towards music? Mr. Runciman's enthusiasm includes Wagner's character, as well as his music and his poetry. He "not only was the most stupendous personage born into the nineteenth century: he was also one of the noblest, most generous men that have lived. There is not a mean trait in his character"—a statement which must be taken *con grano*, like some other exaggerations in this volume, such as the sneer at present-day Bayreuth as having "lapsed into the limbo of tenth-rate things." There is less exaggeration in the state-

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ment that Wagner not only created the music-drama, but the modern art of conducting as exemplified after him by Bülow, Richter, Levi, Seidl, and others. This being the case, it is surprising to read in this book that Wagner was "well paid" for the work he did in London. It is not stated therein what he got for rehearsing and conducting a whole season of Philharmonic concerts; it was one thousand dollars, or less than some Wagner singers receive for one evening's work. Nor is it correct to say that the one cause of all Wagner's grumbling in London was "the character of the bulk of the music he had to conduct." He had many other causes, one of which our author himself dwells on very briefly: the venomous criticisms of nearly the whole press. In a letter quoted Wagner intimates that he could have received favorable notices if he had paid the critics; upon which Mr. Runciman comments: "When I reflect on the smallness of the critics' official salaries and the splendor in which some of them lived, I cannot but think he was right."

A few weeks ago Victor Herbert conducted in Chicago the thirtieth performance of his "Natoma," the only grand opera composed in America that boasts such a record. Last Saturday the Metropolitan Opera House produced the second venture on grand-opera lines of one whose supremacy in operetta is uncontested so far as this country is concerned. "Madeleine" is its name; it was sung by Alda, Sparkes, Althouse, Pini-Corsi, and De Segurola, who were recalled with the conductor and the composer fourteen times at the close of the curtain. The libretto is an adaptation of "I Dine With My Mother," a dainty little comedy by Decourcelles and Thibaut; as set to music, it lasts a few minutes less than an hour. Madeleine is a prima donna, the idol of the public, who takes it into her head to persuade some one of her admirers to dine with her on New Year's Day, when every Frenchman is supposed to be at home. One after another they decline, all for the same reason, and finally she dines alone, facing the portrait of her mother. There is hardly enough action in this story even for a one-act opera. In setting it to music, Mr. Herbert adopted the conversational style of music cultivated by Strauss and Wolf-Ferrari, and with success; but his admirers would have preferred the more melodious and romantic style of "Natoma" and the operettas which have made him famous. Some use is made of leading motives, and the orchestral score contains many delicate and subtle details.

At least forty-five foreign opera houses produced "Parsifal" within a few days after the expiration of the copyright on the first of this month. In Berlin, Prague, and Budapest two companies performed it simultaneously. In Berlin the house was sold out in advance for twenty-four performances, and the Royal Opera gave it every night in the week, two casts being provided. From everywhere come reports of the deep impression made by Wagner's semi-religious drama.

Gounod's "Faust" had been sung 1,226 times at the Opéra in Paris last September. It led all operas at that institution during the last year, having been given twenty-two times in twelve months. Saint-Saëns's "Samson et Dalila" came next in popularity, with nineteen performances; "Rigoletto" had seventeen; "Aïda," sixteen; "Lohengrin," thirteen; "Meistersinger," twelve.

In Germany, the most popular of French operas, and, in fact, of all operas, is Bizet's "Carmen." This is shown by the figures, not for one year only, but for ten years. During the decade 1901-1910 "Carmen" had 3,956 performances in German opera houses. Then came "Lohengrin" (3,458), "Tannhäuser" (3,243), "Mignon" (2,777), "Freischütz" (2,658), "Il Trovatore" and Offenbach's "Contes d'Hoffmann" tie, with 2,486 each; "Pagliacci" had 2,188, "Zauberflöte" 1,859, "Die Walküre" 1,814, and Gounod's "Faust" 2,077. It is worth noting that, of these eleven favorite operas, four are French, and only two are Italian. It is also worth noting that the five favorite German operas had only 1,536 more performances during the decade than the four favorite French operas.

Debussy has honored the American violinist, Arthur Hartmann, by promising to play at a recital on February 5 the accompaniments to three of his songs which Hartmann has arranged for violin and piano. The three songs, "Minstrels," "La fille aux cheveux de lin," and "Il pleure dans mon cœur," have been printed by Durand.

The most extravagant of the musical cubists, Igor Stravinsky, has, oddly enough, written a fairy opera which is to be produced in Moscow and St. Petersburg. A personal friend of Stravinsky gives the following details about this opera in the *Music Student*. The opera is based on "The Nightingale," by Hans Andersen. He has changed the story but little, the principal addition being that he makes one of the fishermen mentioned therein play a part similar to that of the chorus in a Greek tragedy. The real nightingale has a rôle likely to be very effective, but certainly not easy, and the opportunities afforded for humor in the pompous courtiers' searching for the bird, the mechanical bird (sent with great ceremony by the Japanese Emperor), the Kapellmeister, etc., are not neglected. The third act, in the dying monarch's bedroom, should also not miss its effect. The composer brings out the poetic and philosophic meaning of Hans Andersen's beautiful story very fully.

Speaking of the late François Cellier, who for years conducted the Gilbert and Sullivan operas at the Savoy Theatre, the London *Times* says that, at the time of his death, he was in the midst of writing a book of reminiscences of the Gilbert and Sullivan productions, and also of the D'Oyly Carte Company. Mr. Cellier was held in high esteem by Sir Arthur Sullivan, who left him in his will two original scores, that of "Patience" and that of "The Pirates of Penzance."

From Chicago the death is announced of Emil Liebling, who, though he was born in Germany (Pless, in Silesia, in 1851), came to this country as long ago as 1867, and since 1872 had been one of the leading musicians in Chicago, valued equally as pianist, teacher, editor, and critic. Among his own teachers were Liszt, Erlich, Dorn, and Kullak. As a lecturer he was much in demand in the West. He also composed some pieces for the piano.

Art

Art books in the spring publications of McBride, Nast & Company include: "House Furnishing and Decoration," by Abbott McClure and H. D. Eberlein; "Baroque Architecture," by Martin S. Briggs; "The Colonial House," by Joseph Everett Chandler; "The Craft of Hand-Made Rugs," by Amy Mali Hicks; "Making Built-In Furniture," by Abbott McClure, and "A Court Painter and His Circle, François Boucher (1703-1770)," by Mrs. Bearne.

When Henry Peacham, in his "Compleat Gentleman," expressed his disapproval of the heraldic efforts of "Painters, Glasiers, Carvers, and such," he voiced not only the indignation of the Cavaliers at the armorial abuses of their day, but also the protest of many a modern pursuivant of arms against such works as W. H. St. John Hope's "Heraldry for Craftsmen and Designers" (Macmillan). This protest is not against the book itself, which is well organized and written in a pleasing style. The protest is rather against the author's point of view: his assumption that heraldic emblems exist primarily for the purposes of ornament, and that the artist is at liberty to ignore heraldic law, or to revert to the armorial usage of an earlier day, merely because he finds the present usage inartistic. Mr. Hope notes, for example, that in early heraldry the device of quartering was used but sparingly, and that in later times, as the quarters were multiplied through intermarriage, "the artistic effect of the old simple shield was lost or destroyed." Without stopping to consider why, in the passage of time, this multiplication of quarters was advantageous and inevitable, he cites an instance of "a dreadful confusion of twenty-eight quarters," asserts that, "from the artistic standpoint, there cannot be any doubt" that this is wrong, and concludes his discussion of the use of quarters with the declaration that "there can be no question that in general a shield looks best without any at all. . . . To reduce them to a reasonable few is often a most desirable thing." The custom of combining the arms of an heiress with her husband's by means of an escutcheon of pretence Mr. Hope dismisses likewise as "ugly and most inconvenient." Of the baronet's badge, he says, "Some artists wisely leave it out altogether"; of the use of a lozenge for a lady's arms, there is no cause why the custom should not be set aside "for artistic reasons"; and, again, "From the artistic standpoint, it would certainly be desirable . . . to revert to the freedom of pre-Elizabethan times." In short, a large number of the heraldic usages that have made armorial insignia of greatest value to historians and genealogists, all the fine distinctions of

> 'Scutcheons of honor and pretence,
> Quartered in old armorial sort,

Mr. Hope would wipe out as inartistic.

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Moreover, he would effect this reformation not through the action of the Heralds' College, but at the whim of every chance designer. Shall we revert to the alleged simplicity of earlier days? If so, let us at least remember that, in "king Edward the firste his time," it was ordained—if Gerard Leigh speak true—"that no goldsmith, coppersmith, glasier, painter, or marbler should have to do with Armes, without the consent of the king of Armes of that province."

Peter A. Gross, an American landscape painter, who had lived in Paris for the last forty years, died suddenly on Saturday in Chicago, where he was to have opened an exhibition of his art works. He was born in Allentown, Pa. When he first went abroad he lived on the Heights of Montmartre, and later, when many of his compatriots moved across the Seine to the Latin Quarter, he continued to maintain his home near the Place Clichy. Mr. Gross brought with him to this country Fragonard's celebrated painting of Benjamin Franklin, painted in the Louvre when Franklin was Ambassador to France. European collectors had made him offers for the canvas, but it was his hope to establish a museum of art in his native town, and he took the portrait there. Among paintings which he owned were works of Corot, Théodore Rousseau, Delacroix, and other masters of the French school. For many years he was a regular contributor to the great art exhibitions of Paris. He was a chevalier of the Legion of Honor and a member of several other French societies.

Prof. Louise Rogers Jewett, head of the department of art at Mount Holyoke College, died suddenly in South Hadley, Mass., on Wednesday of last week. She was born in Moravia, N. Y., and graduated from the Buffalo Seminary. She studied at the Yale School of Fine Arts, and under Lefebvre and Benjamin Constant at the Académie Julian, Paris. For several years she taught at Dana Hall, Wellesley, and in 1901 came to Mount Holyoke as professor in the art department. In 1912 she was made head of the department. Two of Miss Jewett's publications are "Masterpieces of Painting, Their Qualities and Meanings," 1906, and "History of Italian Painting; Outlines and References," 1908. In 1910, in collaboration with Prof. Mary W. Calkins, of Wellesley College, she edited "The Poems of Sophie Jewett, Memorial Edition."

Finance

THE NEW TURN OF AFFAIRS.

When the stock market suddenly bursts into such activity and strength as that which the past two weeks have witnessed—with the "outside public" unquestionably buying, with prices rising day after day, and with more separate securities dealt in on the rise than in any week in the past four years—the question at once arises, What should have brought about this remarkable situation. It is certainly remarkable in this respect, if in no other, that it follows barely nine weeks after a market in which Stock Exchange business fell on one day to the lowest ebb in twenty-five years, and from which the Stock Exchange was apparently convinced, first, that the "outside public" as a factor in the market was gone, never to return, and, secondly, that the stock market itself, as a field of profitable activity, was played out. What, it may very reasonably be inquired, has happened in this nine weeks' interval, of so portentous a character as to reverse thus completely the action and attitude of Wall Street, Stock Exchange, and "outside public"?

The question might be answered merely by saying that the 57,000-share day of November 24 was a landmark showing that liquidation was complete, all possible evils discounted and overdiscounted by the preceding decline of prices, and the market, therefore, sure to rebound effectively when any one really made up his mind to buy. But as everybody knows, the nine weeks' interval has also included a rather noteworthy series of events. They may not of themselves have changed the position in finance, but they certainly brought into sudden and strong relief some very important changes which had already been gradually occurring, which had already created a new situation, but which Wall Street was still considering from its distorted perspective of the past twelve months.

First, and very soon after the "dull day" of November, came the announcement from the White House of the new policy towards business; the settlement with two great combinations, the enactment of the Currency bill, and its enthusiastic reception by the business community. These events dislodged two factors of misgiving of which much was heard during 1913—the prospect of violent assault on Wall Street and Big Business by the Government, and the prospect that the Democratic party would be incapable of useful or conservative legislation. Up to the middle of this month, other scattered incidents occurred which pointed in the same direction; but a week ago began a most illuminating series of events.

On Friday of week before last, British consols, whose depression during 1913 had reflected the troubled waters of European finance and the utter congestion of the foreign investment market, rose nearly 1 per cent., their price rising subsequently 2 points further, to a higher level than that at which they stood at the outbreak of the Balkan War. At the end of that same week the New York banks, which in December had been talking most doubtfully about the future, reported the largest surplus reserve for this time of year since 1897. On Monday of last week a sharp decline in money rates occurred on Europe's markets, on the heels of the earlier January declines; the Wall Street money market following, and Paris rates giving way for the first time in 1914.

On Tuesday the President's special message reiterated and amplified his policy of peace, with the purpose outlined "not to unsettle business, or anywhere break its established courses," and the assertion that "the antagonism between business and Government is over." On Wednesday came the offering of the $51,000,000 New York State loan for public subscription, the covering of the offer five times over by the bidders; the allotment of the bonds to a banking syndicate, at a higher price than had been deemed possible a month ago, and their instantaneous reallotment to investors, at a further advance in price. Swiftly following this, on Thursday six great central banks of Europe—at London, Berlin, Brussels, Geneva, Stockholm, and Copenhagen—reduced their official discount rates to a lower level than had been fixed by any of them since the Balkan War began; the open market rate at Paris, though the Bank of France made no reduction, falling below the rate which the Bank would have established had its own rate been lowered.

With just this sequence of events a fairly clear explanation of this week's movement on the Stock Exchange is at hand. Summing up all of these numerous successive occurrences, it may be said in a general way that the particular doubts and apprehensions—some of them well warranted, some purely imaginary—which prevailed throughout 1913, have, so to speak, been suddenly exploded. Wall Street need not now apprehend that the party in power is handling the ship without a rudder, or with the black flag at the mast. Misgiving over the New York bank position would be entirely misplaced. The deadlock in the market for new securities is at least temporarily broken. Financial Europe (as yet excepting Paris) has given the plainest intimation that the strain on the foreign money markets is over.

The response of the markets was as emphatic as it was inevitable. The sharp-sighted Stock Exchange is the first to reflect such change, and every one knows how it has reflected it. Speculators and investors have instantly laid in the supplies of investment securities which they had done without, during many months. The turn of general trade comes next. It will come when middlemen and consumers, who have for months been notoriously conducting their affairs on a hand-to-mouth basis, lay in new stocks of merchandise and fill their almost empty shelves and yards. When the Wall Street market halts, after a period of prolonged revival, attention is logically turned to the revival of general business—precisely as every experienced person, after the

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long decline on the Stock Exchange had ended in November, watched expectantly for the business reaction, which, in fact, ensued.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Anderson, A. J. Betty Standish. Dodd, Mead. $1.25 net.
Baedeker's Egypt; Southern France. Scribner. $4.50; $2.40.
Bailey, H. T. Art Education (Riverside Series). Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 60 cents.
Barber, Samuel. A Matrimonial Experiment. Ogilvie. 25 cents.
Begbie, Harold. The Crisis of Morals. Revell. 75 cents net.
Bolton, Florence. Exercises for Women. Funk & Wagnalls. $1 net.
Browne, Frances. Granny's Wonderful Chair. Dutton. 45 cents net.
Cannan, Gilbert. Old Mole. D. Appleton. $1.35 net.
Carus, Paul. Nietzsche, and Other Exponents of Individualism. Chicago: Open Court Pub. Co. $1.25 net.
Chisholm, Catherine. The Medical Inspection of Girls in Secondary Schools. Longmans. $1.10 net.
Cooke, G. McG., and Morrison, C. W. William and Bill. Century Co. $1.25 net.
Croce, Benedetto. The Philosophy of Gambattista Vico. Macmillan. $2.60.
Curzon of Kedleston, Earl. Modern Parliamentary Eloquence. Macmillan. $1.
Davidson, N. J. Things Seen in Oxford. Dutton. 75 cents net.
David, H. C.-E. Chez Nous: A French First Reader. Holt.
Duffield, J. W. Bert Wilson at Panama. Sully & Kleinteich. 50 cents.
Eliot, C. W. Tendency to the Concrete and Practical in Modern Education. Boston: Houghton Mifflin (Riverside Monographs). 35 cents.
Evans, Donald. Sonnets from the Patagonian. Claire Marie. $1.25 net.
Farwell, P. T. Village Improvement. Sturgis & Walton.
Fernald, J. C. The Concise Standard Dictionary of the English Language. Funk & Wagnalls. 60 cents.
Forest, J. L. de. The Love Affair of a Homely Girl. Sully & Kleinteich. $1 net.
Fowler, N. C., jr. Stories and Toasts for After Dinner. Sully & Kleinteich. 50 cents net.
Galsworthy, John. The Fugitive: A Play. Scribner. 60 cents net.
Grant, Sybil. Samphire. Dutton. $1.50 net.
Green, Anna Katharine. Dark Hollow. Dodd, Mead. $1.35 net.
Handbook of Style in Use at the Riverside Press. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. 50 cents net.
Haultain, Arnold. Goldwin Smith, His Life and Opinions. Duffield.
Heroines of Modern Religion. Edited by W. D. Foster. Sturgis & Walton. $1.50 net.
Hill, J. McK. The American Cook Book. Boston Cooking-School Magazine Co. $1 net.
Holl, Karl. Gerhart Hauptmann. Chicago: McClurg. $1 net.
Housman, L., and Barker, G. Prunella. Duffield.
Howard, J. G. Brunelleschi: A Poem. San Francisco: John Howell.
Humphrey, Zephine. The Edge of the Woods, and Other Papers. Revell. $1.25 net.
Johnston, R. F. Buddhist China. Dutton. $5 net.
Kautsky, Karl. The High Cost of Living. Chicago: Kerr.
Korean Folk Tales. Translated by J. S. Gale. Dutton. $1.25 net.
Lisle, David. The Soul of Life. Stokes. $1.25 net.
MacDonald, Greville. Jack and Jill. Dutton. $1.50 net.
Mathews, Frederic. Taxation and the Distribution of Wealth. Doubleday, Page. $2.50 net.
My Wife's Hidden Life. Chicago: Rand, McNally. $1.25 net.
Neland, O. H. The Crimson Fist. Boston: Badger. $1.25 net.
Notestein, L. L., and Dunn, W. H. The Modern Short-Story. Barnes Co. $1 net.
Osmun, L. G. The Clutch of Circumstance. Sully & Kleinteich. $1.25 net.
Oxford Book of Canadian Verse. Chosen by Wilfred Campbell. Oxford University Press. $2.
Paul's Simplicode. Frederick Warne & Co. 40 cents net.
Raymond and Caverly Joke Book. Ogilvie Co. 25 cents.
Raymond, Walter. A Wayfaring Soul. Dutton. $1 net.
Religio Doctoris: Meditations Upon Life, by a Retired College President. Introduction by G. S. Hall. Boston: Badger. $1.25 net.
Reynolds, Eldrid. Whispering Dust. Stokes. $1.10 net.
Rinehart, M. R. The After House. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. $1.25 net.
Schell, Hermann. The New Ideals in the Gospel. Dutton. $3.50 net.
Scherer, P., and Dirks, L. H. Deutsche Lieder. American Book Co. 25 cents.
Spence, Lewis. A Dictionary of Mediæval Romance and Romance Writers. Dutton. $3 net.
Spencer, Edward. Cakes and Ale (Fourth edition). The Flowing Bowl. Duffield.
Stacpoole, H. de V. The Children of the Sea. Duffield. $1.25 net.
Stacpoole, Margaret de V. Monte Carlo: A Novel. Dodd, Mead. $1.25 net.
Sterrett, F. R. The Jam Girl. D. Appleton. $1.25 net.
The Sale of Lady Daventry. Brentano. $1.35 net.
Troward, T. Bible Mystery and Bible Meaning. Revised Edition. Goodyear Book Concern. $2.
Tucker, L. E. Readings from the Old Testament. The Old Testament Phrase Book. Sturgis & Walton. $1.25 net; $1 net.
Turner, L. M. Du Conflit Tragique chez les Grecs et dans Shakespeare. Paris: Ollier-Henry.
Washburn, Elizabeth. The Colour of the East. Stokes. $1.25 net.
Webster, H. K. The Butterfly. D. Appleton. $1.25 net.
Who's Who, 1914 (England). Macmillan. $4.
Worsfold, W. B. The Reconstruction of the New Colonies under Lord Milner. 2 vols. Dutton. $7.50 net.

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